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Council no substitute

Voting national duty: Sheikh Salem



Candidates speak

Trial: Othman Al Saeed, 37, running for Jabra believes it is still too early for women to vote. "Maybe in 20 years ... Today it is not accepted to knock on somebody's door and ask to discuss your campaign with his wife or daughter."

Saeed who is against tribal allegiances said that he represents all people in his district and not only those in his tribe. He expects many withdrawals after registration closing date. "At the end the number of competitors in my constituency will shrink to 6."

The Nabat poet who started campaigning in Jawa was right after the Amiri announcement of the Interim National Council believes that taking part in the new council enhances a citizen's loyalty to Kuwait.

"This council doesn't mean that there will be a change in the constitution, according to what I understand," Saeed said adding that the National Assembly did not succeed in finding solutions for a number of economic difficulties in Kuwait.

All Adel Al Khalaf Al Saeed, 40, an ex-member of the 1985 National Assembly called on Kuwaiti people to participate in the elections and fulfil the wish of HH the Amir who is considered a father of all Kuwaitis. The ex-pilot in the army sees his candidacy as one way of serving his country.

Saeed believes that the main function of candidates is to convey the public's views to officials on economic and housing issues:

By Diana Abou Haidar
and Lima Al Khalafawali
Arab Times staff

VOTING is both a national duty and a right to be practised by every citizen," said the Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah who visited the Election Department at Sharq yesterday.

The minister stressed that the Interim National Council is not a substitute for the National Assembly as the Amiri decree clearly states.

He expected the number of candidates to double within the next three days especially towards closing day on May 9.

By yesterday 302 candidates had registered for the upcoming elections including: Ali Abdulla Khalaf Al Saeed and Khalaf Dumatash Al Inez, ex-members of the 1985 National Assembly.

This raises the number of ex-parliamentarians to 14, ten of which were members of the 1985 session, two of 1981, and one each of 1971 and 1975.

Salem Zman Al Suliman of Jabra and Fahed Shaj'a Al Ajmi of Fahad withdrew yesterday. Candidates

(Continued on Page 9)

Supplement

Hungary in Kuwait
Glasnost in Hungary has apparently given renewed vigour to that country. The Hungarians are now pushing tourism and investments opportunities at a week-long festival in Kuwait. A special four-page supplement in today's Arab Times issue projects that country's latest aspirations.

(Pages 11-14)

10 years for maid rape

A POLICEMAN who was convicted by the Criminal Court of raping a Filipina maid appealed to the Higher Appeal Court who also upheld the verdict.

The accused then moved the Cassation Court who after deliberations sentenced him to ten years rigorous imprisonment to be followed by five years probation.

The court was told that the maid had been detained at a police centre for having illicit sex with another Filipino male at the premises of her employer's residence.

The defendant was called upon to transport the maid from the police centre to another that had a special place for detaining women. The distance between the two centres was only 15 minutes, but the accused brought the maid after a period of four hours.

The court was told that to cover up the lapse of time, the accused forged the departure and arrival register to reflect that he had transported the maid in a quarter of an hour. However, his tampering with the register supported the claim of the defence of the maid.

In lively debate last night and today after a panel of priorities of the Islamic movement, speakers said some fundamentalist groups that preached strict separation of the sexes were acting against the teachings and interests of Islam.

"Women are one half of our society and the other half is educated through their hands and care. How can we have a renaissance of our nation if they are blocked?" asked Rashid Ghannouchi, exiled leader of Tunisia's opposition Nahda Movement.

He was joined by thinkers from Morocco, Syria and Egypt who denounced as despotic communal Islamic groups that claim to be the sole interpreters of God's word.

"They accuse those who are not members of their party of being non-believers, and confuse secularists and non-believers," said Syrian writer Burhan Ghalyon.

Algeria, where the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front is mounting a strong challenge to the ruling party, is hosting a four-day conference organised by the London-based Centre for Studies on the Future of Islam.

FIS leaders were not invited to speak on the ground as the conference was open to religious, not political figures.

Ghannouchi said that "Islamic organisations feel revulsion for diversity. Their members are educated according to a simplistic model ... they are attached to a group of scholars or a single one as if it is the official spokesman of truth."

Mohammed Amara, an Egyptian researcher, said Islamic movements should open a dialogue with secularists who wanted to separate mosque and state rather than brand them as heretics.

Man on stilts

A man on stilts starts the 15th edition of the Marathon of Paris on the Champs Elysees avenue, his back to the Arc de Triomphe, in Paris yesterday. (Reuter wirephoto)

LAHORE, May 6, (AP): A bomb ripped through the first-class car of an express passenger train near the troubled border with India today, killing at least 12 people and injuring 41, authorities said.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the blast. Authorities refused to speculate about who planted the bomb but said it was sabotage.

The bomb exploded about 3 pm (1000 GMT) in the restroom of the first-class car, according to Mohammad Iqram Beg, stationmaster at the tiny Badami Bagh station where the train stopped for about a

minute to allow the track ahead to clear.

The station is just outside Lahore. The city is 15 miles (24 kms) from the India-Pakistan border.

The 10-car Tez Gam Express, Pakistan's fastest train, was travelling to the southern port city of Karachi from Rawalpindi, adjacent to the federal capital of Islamabad.

Trains in Pakistan are always crowded. Authorities said the first-class car, the only one damaged in the explosion, had a 40-person capacity but was carrying 60 people.

Many of the 3,000 residents who converged on the site blamed India for the bombing.

Police had earlier put the casualty figure at 15 dead and 50 injured. But they said later this was incorrect and issued a revised death toll of at least 12 with 41 injured.

"This obviously was sabotage," a railway spokesman in the Pakistani capital Islamabad said. But he declined to speculate on who planted the bomb.

Punjab police chief Manzur Ahmad last month blamed unspecified foreigners for a series of bomb blasts in the country's most populous province, which borders India's troubled Punjab state.

Bomb kills 12 on Pakistani express train

Crack down!

Singh demands punishment

NEW DELHI, May 6, (AP): Prime Minister V.P. Singh called today for a crackdown on India's increasingly violent separatist groups in Kashmir and Punjab.

In a letter to the heads of India's 25 states, Singh blamed "anti-India agencies from across the border" for secessionist violence that has left more than 1,000

people dead this year.

He was referring to neighbouring Pakistan.

Such groups have a "sinister design" to throw India into chaos, he said.

State intelligence bureaus were ordered to increase their surveillance of suspicious elements and their activities, according to a partial text of the letter carried by two Indian news services.

Singh demanded "firm punishment" for people "shouting slogans or religious cries" that could incite others to violence.

"Provocative" posters and handbills must also be "checked firmly," he said.

Singh said the central government had "reliable information" that "external agencies aiding and abetting terrorist and secessionist groups have instructed them to focus on violent acts."

He said he was worried that such groups would stir up "communal" trouble, meaning clashes between India's Hindu and Muslim communities.

About 1 million Hindus and Muslim died in clashes in 1947 during the partition of the sub-continent along religious lines that resulted in independence from Britain and the creation of modern India and Pakistan.

Both nations have claimed Kashmir since they won their independence from Britain in 1947, and the two countries went to war over Kashmir in 1948 and 1965.

India accuses Pakistan of harbouring and arming the separatists. Pakistan says it supports Kashmiri Muslims' right to self-determination but denies sheltering or arming them.

In his letter, Singh also accused "external agencies" another reference to Pakistan, of fomenting a separatist movement in Punjab state, just south of Kashmir.

So far this year, at least 746 people have been killed in the bloody Sikh nationalist movement. Indian news reports said 12,000 people died yesterday. On Friday, Sikh nationalists damaged a television tower with a rocket.

Police in New Delhi also are investigating Sikh involvement in three bomb blasts in the capital over the last three weeks that killed 11 people.

See Page 2

Soviets clear path

The Soviet Union has cleared the path to rapid German unity, avoiding a stubborn dispute over NATO membership and prompting West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl to speak today of an "historic event for Germany and Europe."

Moscow's opposition to Western demands that a united Germany be anchored in Nato was the main stumbling block at talks here between both Germans and the four World War Two victors — the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and France.

The Christian Democrats (CDU) retained their position as East Germany's strongest political force in local elections today but lost votes to the Social Democrats (SPD), grassroots groups and independent candidates. Pictures shows foreign ministers of Germany and the four World War Two allies address a joint news conference in Bonn. (Reuter wirephoto).

(See stories Page 7)

Scholars attack

Future of Islam debate

ALGIERS, May 6, (Reuter): Islamic scholars and intellectuals at a conference on the future of Islam have attacked fundamentalist groups gaining ground in many Muslim countries as intolerant and dismissive of women.

In lively debate last night and today after a panel of priorities of the Islamic movement, speakers said some fundamentalist groups that preached strict separation of the sexes were acting against the teachings and interests of Islam.

"Women are one half of our society and the other half is educated through their hands and care. How can we have a renaissance of our nation if they are blocked?" asked Rashid Ghannouchi, exiled leader of Tunisia's opposition Nahda Movement.

He was joined by thinkers from Morocco, Syria and Egypt who denounced as despotic communal Islamic groups that claim to be the sole interpreters of God's word.

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Train crash

An injured man is comforted by another injured victim of a train crash on the outskirts of Sydney yesterday. (Reuter wirephoto)

See also Page 2

Jordan to sell exemption

No licences for men

AMMAN, May 6, (Reuter): Jordan has decided to sell exemption from military service to citizens working abroad.

The cost of exemption is likely to be around \$10,000 payable in foreign currency, a cabinet minister who declined to be named told Reuters today.

The buy-out has often been requested by spokesmen for 375,000 Jordanians employed abroad, most of whom live in Gulf oil states. The government, burdened with foreign debt, needs the cash.

The Interior Ministry announced today that it will stop issuing licences for men to own beauty parlours and also banned male beauticians from working in them.

The decision came in response to demands by Islamic fundamentalists in Jordan's 80-member Parliament.

A senior ministry official told the Associated Press by telephone that the decision will not affect men who have already been issued beauty parlour permits.

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INTERNATIONAL

Janata Dal to hold elections on May 20

Efforts continue to evolve consensus

By Thomas Abraham

Arab Times correspondent
NEW DELHI, May 6: Elections to choose an interim president for the Janata Dal the main constituent of India's Ruling National Front, will now be held on May 20.

The polling was originally scheduled for May 1, but was suddenly postponed because of "practical difficulties", a phrase that most observers interpreted

to mean that the party leadership wanted to avoid the bitterness of a contest.

Efforts are still continuing to evolve a consensus on the choice of the interim president, who will hold office till regular organisational elections are held later this year.

There are three candidates in the fray — party general secretary S. Jaipal Reddy, former Karnataka chief minister S.R. Bommai and Lok Sabha

member Hukum Dev Narayan Yadav.

The elections, necessitated by Prime Minister V.P. Singh's resignation from the party post, has not been without controversy. At one stage it looked like the May 1, poll would turn out to be a trial of strength between the Singh and Devi Lal factions in the party, a fact that must have largely influenced the decision to postpone the voting.

Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal had made known his opposition to any "consensus" candidate earlier and announced his support for Bommai.

Devi Lal is learnt to have made his displeasure known to Singh in a long letter in which he also demanded early election on what is called the "slip system." Under this there are no candidates and all the voters are given a slip of paper on which they can write down their choice for presidency. This he felt would avoid groupism in the party.

Devi Lal said in his letter that the postponement of the elections had put a question mark on the party's ability to hold democratic elections. "If we adopt this system of working, we may also go for the Congress way and be thrown in the dustbin of history," he is understood to have said in his letter.

The election was mainly a contest between Reddy and Bommai, with Yadav not given much chance of winning. But Yadav has consistently refused to withdraw from the fray, saying he decided to file his nomination only to ensure there was a proper contest. Yadav has been outspoken in his criticism of the move to defer the polling.

Bommai enjoys the support of Devi Lal and some of the chief ministers owing allegiance to the Deputy Prime Minister. Though Singh has not indicated his own preference, it is generally believed that he would prefer Reddy to take on the responsibility. Reddy has for a long time been functioning as the party spokesman with great success.

Polling will be held in the respective state capitals. The 2000-strong electorate will consist of all the party members of parliament, members of legislative assemblies and councils in the states and all those who fought the recent Lok Sabha and state assembly elections on the Janata Dal symbol.

The fresh schedule was announced by Finance Minister Madhu Dandavate, who is the returning officer before he left for Washington to attend meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.



Rescue workers look over the wreckage of a commuter train and a steam train which collided in a tunnel on the outskirts of Sydney. (Reuter wirephoto)

Train collision

Six killed, 90 hurt

SYDNEY, May 6, (AP): A modern, double-decker passenger train collided today with an old-fashioned steam train chartered by jazz music fans, killing at least six people and injuring 90, police said.

The crash occurred in a remote area about 25 miles (40 kilometres) north of Sydney, and the only access to the wreckage was a dirt track through dense brush. Many of the injured had to be carried more than 500 yards (metres) to waiting ambulances, witnesses said.

"We stayed there for a while, then started up around a curve and next thing, bang. People were thrown everywhere. They just got thrown from their seats."

Another passenger, Ben Shaw, said the impact came without warning.

"We waited for about five minutes, then we took off and just hit. People were flying everywhere," he said.

"Richard Stohr, a passenger in the second carriage of the inter-urban train, said modern, electric train appeared to be trying to pick up speed to tackle the hill when it came out of a tunnel and slammed into the back of a stationary train."

"A woman just flew past me. Just sailed past," he said. "I think she was killed."

Guy Flower, a crewman on a rescue helicopter, said the crash scene looked like a "horror movie, with a heavy smell of broken timber."

Air crash kills 6

'Plot' against Prabhakaran

COLOMBIA, May 6, (Kuna): A delegation of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), led by doctor Anton Balasingham, has informed the commanding officer of the northern force in Sri Lanka, that the cadres of the illegal Tamil National Army (TNA) and the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPLLF) have infiltrated into the northern Jaffna province and there was a plot to assassinate the LTTE leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran, security sources based in the north said today.

The delegation also informed the commanding officer of the TNA and the EPLLF gunmen were planning to attack the Sri Lankan security forces and put the blame on the

LTTE, these sources said.

The delegation also had requested that the security forces based in the northern province be given LTTE escorts when they leave their stations.

The security sources further said that the commanding officer of the Sri Lankan security forces totally rejected the offer of escorts to the security forces but had noted the other points put forward by the LTTE delegation.

• Six air force men were killed when their helicopter crashed during a search for a gang of thieves that had robbed a tourist hotel in central Sri Lanka, a military officer said.

Troops in full combat gear and paramilitary police personnel were seen posted in increased numbers across Srinagar and patrolling was strengthened.

Security forces manning roadblocks for second day sealed off all approaches to the civil lines area, where the bulk of the state government offices are located. The state secretariat, the main administrative headquarters, was taken over by the army.

Additional security personnel were also posted at the housing complexes where Jammu-based civil servants were to stay.

Despite the massive preparations, however, there were no indications that more than 3,000 Hindu employees, or about 40 percent of the total government workforce, were prepared to drop their refusal to shift from Jammu to Srinagar.

The workers have balked at moving to Kashmir out of fears of attacks by Muslim separatists engineering the movement for independence.

Asked why his group is constantly accused of holding the hostages, Hezbollah leader Abu Yasser said, "this could have arisen from the fact that Hezbollah has never publicly condemned those who employ the method of hostage-holding because Hezbollah knows the real reasons behind the hostage issue."

"The one who bears responsibility for this issue is the American administration because it is the one which instigated this line and it is the one which backed it," he added.

Abu Yasser charged that "thousands of downtrodden Muslims" were kidnapped by the

Exchange of fire

2 Pakistanis killed: India

JAMMU, India, May 6, (Agencies): Indian and Pakistani soldiers exchanged gunfire in a tense sector of the line dividing disputed Kashmir, and two Pakistani soldiers were believed killed. Indian officials said today.

Indian police also reported two major clashes with militants in the Kashmir valley that killed 11 people.

In the Punch sector of the line that divides the one-third of Kashmir controlled by Pakistan from Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, the two armies shoot at each other almost every day. Casualties, however, are relatively rare.

India is keen to seal the line separating the two Kashmiris to prevent alleged infiltration by militants fighting Indian rule in Jammu and Kashmir.

Pakistan denied Indian allegations that it arms and trains the militants in the part of Kashmir it controls.

In the clashes with militants, Indian police said a paramilitary force doctor and one member of his unit were killed in an ambush in the southern Kashmir valley on Friday. Five militants were killed, they said.

Four more militants were killed yesterday after opening fire on a patrol that challenged them in the northern part of the valley, Indian police said today.

India says it has killed dozens of militants trying to enter the Kashmir valley from Pakistan in the four months since a long-running agitation against Indian rule exploded into an uprising. At least 300 people have been killed this year.

It has told Pakistan bluntly to stem the infiltrations, warning it would do whatever necessary to halt the flow if Pakistan did not. Delhi has not ruled out military action.

Indian officials say the most dangerous phase should start in mid-May, when the high Himalayan passes into the Kashmir valley normally become passable as winter snows melt.

In Islamabad, a spokesman for the Pakistan army said the only casualty of Indian firing in Kashmir was a farmer working in his fields in the Leepa sector north of Punch.

Farmer Zamin Shah from Bella village was killed yesterday in a field close to the ceasefire line.

"He was just looking after his field and they shot him," the spokesman said. "There has been generally an exchange of fire at various places but there has been no killing in the Punch sector."

Indian authorities apparently concerned about possible Muslim separatist violence boosted deployments today of troops and paramilitary police across Srinagar on the eve of the opening of state government offices.

In other developments, police sources reported the deaths yesterday of five people, including four militants, in violence related to the popular uprising.

Security across Srinagar was further intensified a day before state government offices were to open at the beginning of the annual six-month period during which they function in the city.

For the harsh Himalayan winter months, the bureaucracy moves back to the winter capital of Jammu.

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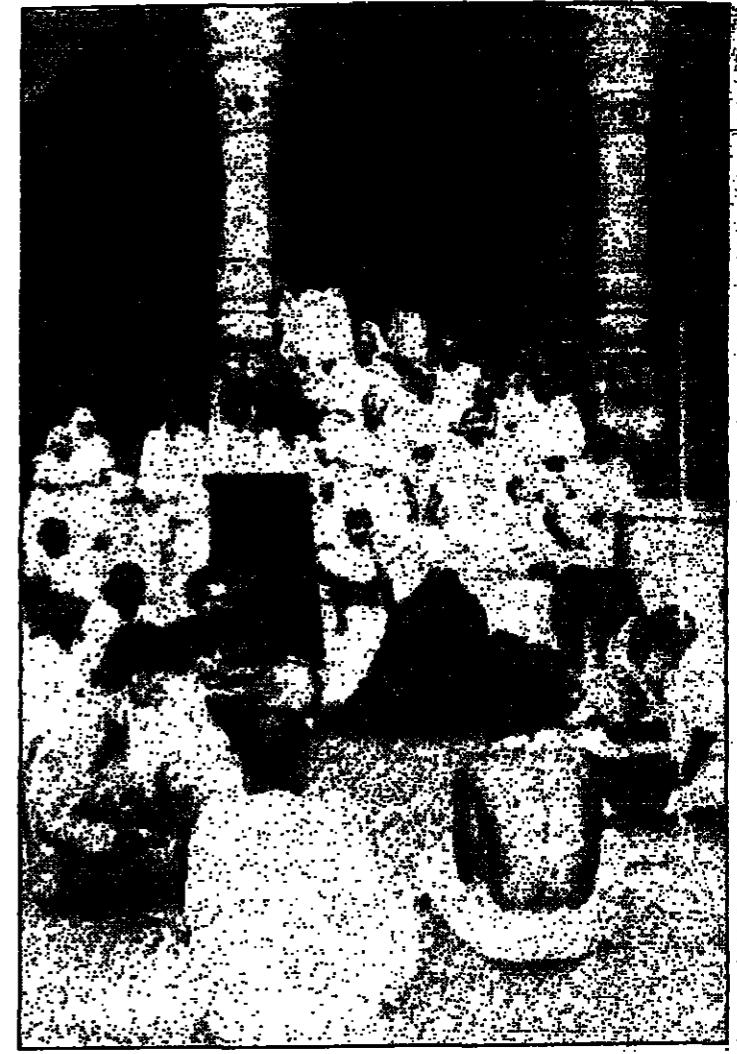
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The officials said the border shooting started yesterday in the Sokar area of Punch district, where the two armies routinely exchange fire, when Pakistani soldiers started building a bunker in no-man's land.

Pakistani soldiers were seen carrying away two limp bodies of their colleagues, and Indian officers believed them to be dead.



Hunger strike

Hindu priests hunger strike outside a temple in the North Indian town of Mathura in protest at their high priest Swami Sarvanand Saraswati's arrest. He was arrested on May 1 when he attempted to march with followers to the town of Ayodhya and lay the foundation stone for a new shrine. (Reuter wirephoto)

Arafat

(Continued from Page 1)

comes at the height of positive developments in inter-Arab relations."

Arab diplomats said the Saudi Prince is expected to discuss with Saddam efforts to convene an emergency Arab summit in Baghdad later this month to discuss Middle East peace moves, the Soviet Jewish influx into Israel and Lebanon.

The Iraqis have also said they would like to have perceived threats from Israel and the West against them discussed, but Syrian officials have indicated they do not take the issue seriously. Ibrahim was quoted by the television as saying that the summit will discuss "all issues which concern the Arab nation."

In Egypt, President Hosni Mubarak met today with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal.

Egyptian sources said they discussed the upcoming Arab summit and mediation attempts to end the Iraqi-Syrian rift. Mubarak also sent his senior political advisor to Amman with a letter for King Hussein. The source said the letter concerned the same two issues.

Abdullah is scheduled to visit Cairo and Amman after Baghdad.

In Damascus, no details of Abdullah's talks with Assad were disclosed.

Abdullah is also understood to be pressuring Syria to end a seven-year-old feud with Arafat, who has close relations with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

The Saudi envoy's trip to Syria coincided with a visit to Baghdad by

Hostages

(Continued from Page 1)

US-trained Lebanese army during former president Amin Gemayel's term between 1982 and 1988.

Most of them were seized before the scores of gunpoint abductions of Westerners started in West Beirut, and they are still unaccounted for, he said.

If the United States is in a fix as a result of the occurrence of the hostage issue for which it bears the responsibility, then we are not concerned with condemning those behind the predicament of the American administration," Abu Yasser said.

Abu Yasser said the United States pays scant attention to the harsh practices of Israel in the region.

"It never condemns Zionist practices in Lebanon or Palestine or the Golan Heights," he said.

"Instead it vetoes any UN Security Council condemnation of Israeli terrorist acts even if the condemnation is merely a lip-service expression without any practical context."

"So why should we then take the stand that serves the interests of the UN administration?" he said.

LONDON, May 6, (UPI): After two years of planning and millions of dollars in advertising, British Telecom switched to a new telephone area code for London today.

The change, which BT said is needed because the capital is running out of available numbers, requires a new code for international calls to London and for calls from the inner city to and from the outer city.

Before today, all Londoners had the same area code, 01. domestic and 1 internationally, followed by seven digits, which are the only ones Londoners use to talk to each other.

The new system, which started minutes after midnight, splits the capital in half. Inner London and an extension east to the boozing docklands, is coded 071 while outer London is coded 081.

BT said it is expecting the switch to go smoothly, but has explained that Kensington Palace, like all of central London, is 071.

A few days before the change, Princess Diana confessed she did not know her new code. BT officials helpfully explained that Kensington Palace, like all of central London, is 071.

Telephones in London from abroad require Britain's country code, 44, followed by 071 or 081, and then the

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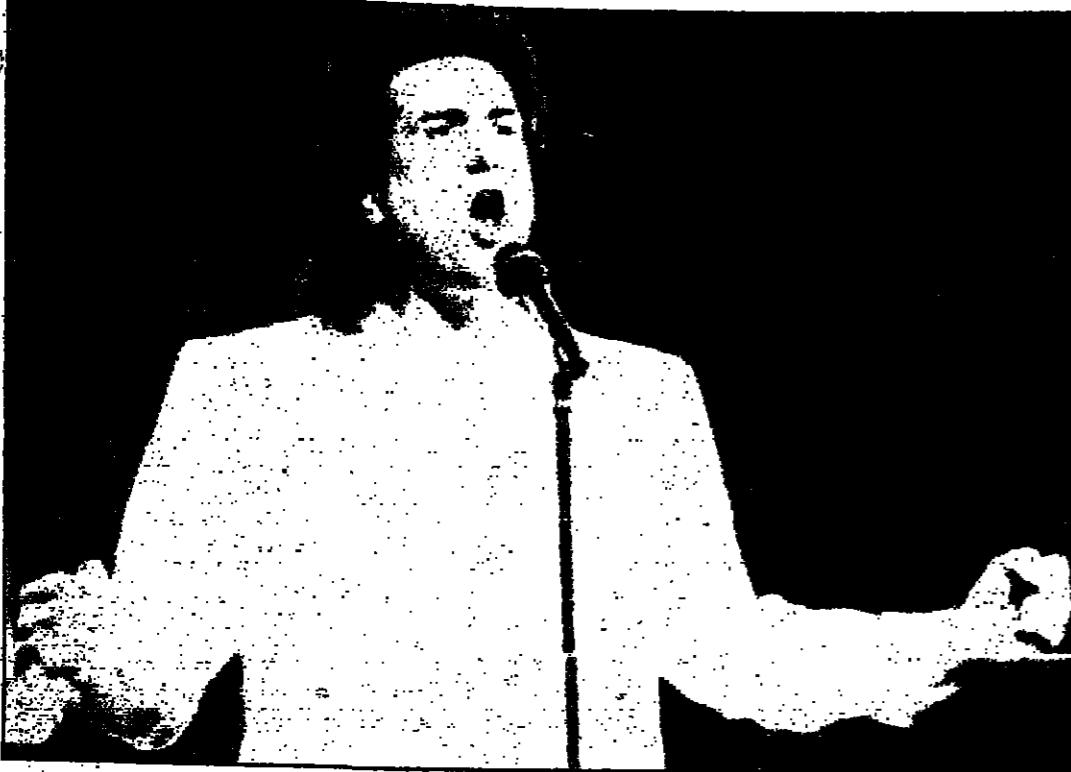
Mr Lee R. Lambert

President of Lee R. Lambert & Associates

The Lecture will be held at 6.30 pm tomorrow, Tuesday May 8, 1990

At The Kuwait Society of Engineers Building Al-Qar

INTERNATIONAL

**Wins Eurovision contest**

Toto Cutugno of Italy won the 35th Eurovision song contest on Saturday with a song called "Insieme 1990" inspired by the planned creation of a united Europe. Liam Neeson of Ireland and Joelle Ursini of France shared second place in the competition broadcast from the north-western Yugoslav city of Zagreb to one billion television viewers across the world.

Cutugno, a successful singer, wrote the song himself. It includes the refrain "unite, unite Europe"—a reference to

the creation of a single market by the European Community in 1992.

Cutugno, who is in his early 40s but declined to give his exact age, was the first Italian to win the competition since Girola Conquitt in 1964.

He scored 149 of a maximum 252 points awarded by judges from 22 countries. The two runners up scored 132 points (Reuter wirephoto)

Van Gogh film released

Explores artistic madness

AMSTERDAM, May 6, (Reuters): "The film is not about a famous artist, but about a failed person and his relationship with his family," says American director Robert Altman whose new movie on Vincent van Gogh has just opened in Europe.

A century after the Dutch artist committed suicide, Altman's "Vincent and Theo" focuses on the relationship between Vincent and his brother, described by Altman as like Siamese twins.

Theo, an art dealer, financially supported Vincent and lived for only a few months after his death in 1890 at the age of 37. The Netherlands is marking the 100th anniversary of Van Gogh's death with a year-long programme, including exhibitions, operas, films and plays.

Altman's film explores how Van Gogh, whose works now sell for record prices, was driven to suicide by a sense of failure.

"I wanted to show the pain of a striving artist," said Altman on a visit to Amsterdam where the film recently had its world premiere.

"What I am trying to express to the audience is the wonder of an artist that has the drive to do something and never succeeds and years later is the most famous artist in the world," he added.

The film, which opened May 3 in West Germany, and goes on show in June in Britain and in September in the United States and much of the rest of Europe, is the 65-year-old director's first attempt at a film set in European history.

"It was a very interesting time, and I deal with the art world, the hypocrisy of the art world, art critics, with other painters of the time, with money and sales and popularity," he said.

A veteran who has already produced 29 films including such hits as "Mash" and "Nashville" Altman found his biggest difficulty was contending with his crew's preconceptions about Van Gogh.

"Everyone had an opinion, so when I did something they didn't agree with, I could smell it," said Altman.

"I didn't want this film to imitate Van Gogh's look or his painting. There are many scenes where I purposely went against something I knew to be a fact and presented things that were not factually true but which I felt were emotionally true," he said.

For example, Van Gogh's friend, the artist Paul Gauguin, has a limp in the movie. In real life he did not acquire one until an accident after Van Gogh's death but Altman said he felt the limp helped round out the character.

Altman said he purposely did not read the published letters of Vincent to his brother or see the dozens of other films that have already been made on the artist in order to present his own, strictly personal, image of the artist.

What emerges is a character of raw emotion, reckless, uncouth and obsessive rather than likeable, and a Theo who holds on ambivalently to responsibility to support the brother he loves but does not always understand.

"The film shows how emotionally connected they were. They were like Siamese twins like two sides of the same coin," Altman said.

Altman chose two relatively unknown British actors for the lead parts — Tim Roth as Vincent and Paul Rhys as Theo.

"I figured there was already a star in the film and that is Van Gogh and to have famous name actor would have confused the issue. We had many famous actors who wanted to play Vincent, but I wasn't interested," Altman said.

The film opens with the sale of Van Gogh's sunflowers for \$39.9 million at a Christie's auction in 1987 — at the time the highest price ever paid for a painting.

It shifts to a pipe-smoking Van Gogh, with tar-stained teeth, despondent in a decrepit Dutch hut where he is being told by Theo that the drawings he has done in the few months since he decided to become an artist are not particularly good.

A decade and thousands of paintings later, Van Gogh committed suicide, having sold only a single painting in his life.

The fascination about Van Gogh is in the terrible, cruel irony of a person who never achieved success in his life and then his paintings are sold at obscene prices," Altman said.

Businessman murdered

Man records own killing

ORANGE BEACH, Alabama, May 6, (AP): A businessman who carried a small tape recorder to a meeting recorded his own death, police said.

Robert Steven Leiterman, 40, was fatally stabbed Thursday after he went to the apartment of Clayton Hunley, 41, an unemployed dock hand, to recover some electronic equipment he believed was his, police said.

Leiterman was unarmed, but carried the recorder in his pants pocket to record the meeting. Instead, it recorded an argument between the two men and the sound of Leiterman being stabbed in the back with a kitchen knife, officials said.

Baldwin County coroner Huey Mack said the tape would be crucial to the investigation.

"You've got both of those people on recording. I'd rather have that than physical evidence," he said.

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Festival Abolished

SAN LUIS OBISPO, California, May 6, (AP): A 58-year-old college festival wrecked by a weekend of rowdy rock throwing has been abolished.

California Polytechnic State University president Warren Baker called off future celebrations of the annual Poly Rock Festival for an indefinite period after a meeting Monday with Mayor Ron Dunn.

On Friday and last night, partygoers hurled rocks at bottles at police officers, who used tear-gas and fire hoses to disperse crowds. Sixty-four people were injured, including 14 police officers, and there were 110 arrests.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Car crash

3 kids die

RIVERSIDE, Illinois, May 6, (AP): A speeding car veered through a baseball field yesterday, killing three young children and injuring nine other people before crashing into a building, officials said.

Two of the six children injured were reported in critical condition after the accident in Robinson park in this Chicago suburb.

"I saw a car driving through the field, and I saw it hitting kids," said Amy Ulrich, 14. "It was going kind of crazy and going real fast."

The car plowed through a fence into a bench on the third-base line, hitting people on the field before continuing across a busy street and ramming the glass and steel entrance to a medical clinic, police said.

"Thank God no one was in the area" of the clinic, said Anthony Christiano, a police officer in Berwyn, an adjoining suburb where the clinic is located.

The driver of the late-model Cadillac, a man who appeared about 50 years old, was coherent after the 1:30 pm (1830 GMT) accident and was taken to MacNeal Memorial Hospital in Berwyn, Christiano said. He may have suffered a heart attack or some other medical problem, and there was no indication he had been drinking, the officer said.

All of the injured children were 7 or 8 years old, said Michael Maggio, spokesman for Loyola University Medical centre in Maywood, where most were treated. Three were killed, Maggio said.

Phone booth Fatal fight

NANTES, France, May 6, (AP): When a stranger tried to cut short his 15-minute telephone call, a 47-year-old Frenchman flew into a fury, beating and kicking the stranger to death.

The alleged killer, Jean-Marie Lupin, was charged yesterday with aggravated assault.

Police said the victim, Daniel Droniou, 44, had grown impatient and tried to force his way into the public telephone booth where Lupin was making his call.

The Trinity crest at Dallas on Thursday, forcing hundreds from their homes. Many were still out of their home yesterday as the river began to recede slowly there.

More than 60 southeastern Oklahoma highways were under water yesterday and the number was expected to significantly increase as more water was released from overfilled reservoirs.

In eastern Oklahoma, the dam on Lake Frances threatened to break, which would send a torrent of water downstream into nearby Flint creek, Arkansas, and other small towns.

Also the Texas-Oklahoma border, Lake Texoma was almost 4 feet (1.5 metres) above its spillway yesterday, with about 30 mobile homes and 24 permanent structures under water around the huge lake.

(7 metres) over flood stage yesterday, said an emergency management official, Travis Roberts.

The Trinity crested at Dallas on Thursday, forcing hundreds from their homes. Many were still out of their home yesterday as the river began to recede slowly there.

Huge clouds of white steam from each of the incursions filled the sky causing a haze that shaded the brilliant Hawaiian sun.

The steam, called laze (lava-generated haze), posed a potential health hazard because the fiery rock hitting seawater generates hydrochloric acid and other potentially hazardous substances.

A warning was issued to the remaining residents in the picturesque area. The danger is greatest within one mile of the spot where the lava enters the sea, officials said.

The 2,000-degree molten rock slid into one pond transforming it from a quiet pool of water into a furiously boiling cauldron of brown liquid on red-orange rock.

Palm trees near the pond were surrounded and slowly began to burn, while fronds dropping onto the lava burst instantly into flame.

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Blow to drug barons

Colombia uncovers factory

BOGOTA, May 6, (Reuters): Colombia has dealt a severe blow in its war against its powerful drug traffickers, uncovering a major cocaine processing centre deep in the jungle and seizing 12 tonnes of the drug worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

The raid on the complex, believed to be one of the most important in the country, is the biggest coup in the government's anti-drug fight since 13.8 tonnes of cocaine were seized at the Villa Coca processing centre in 1984.

"I was surprised at the amount. I had never seen so much cocaine in my life," General Humberto Correa, the army officer in charge of the operation, told Colombian radio last night.

Local radio said the pure cocaine was worth about \$860 million in the United States, where most Colombian cocaine ends up.

Army special forces backed by helicopters and air force planes swooped on the processing centre, hundred of miles (km) east of Bogota, killing two people and detaining 17. They found 25 airstrips hidden in the jungle, seized four light aircraft, vehicles, weapons and radio equipment.

The complex, known as "La Petrolera," consists of three laboratories so remote they can be reached only by river or army road.

Correa said the army had found 12 tonnes of cocaine in the operation which began last Thursday and is still going on. An army spokesman said a tonne of Coca paste had also been seized.

Cocaine and coca paste arrived at the centre from southern Colombia and Bolivia, was processed into cocaine and then sent to Mexico and the United States.

Colombia's Medellin and Cali cartels together supply 80 per cent of cocaine consumed in the United States, but officials did not say which group operated the processing centre.

UK jurist to probe Israeli arms sale

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua, May 6, (AP): A British jurist will lead an inquiry into the transhipment of Israeli-made arms from Antigua and Barbuda to Colombian drug traffickers last year, the government has announced.

A statement issued by the government Friday said that Louis Blomcooper will arrive in Antigua next week for preliminary discussions with Legal Affairs Minister Keith Ford and Governor General Wildred Jacks.

Implicated in the scandal is Minister of Public Works Vere Bird Jr, national security adviser to his father, Prime Minister Vere Bird Sr, who was named by the Israeli government as the Antiguan official who ordered the arms shipment in November, 1988 for the Antiguan Defence Forces.

Bird Jr, 54, has denied any wrongdoing and has stepped down from his ministerial position until the matter has been resolved.

The scandal broke in February when Colombian authorities discovered a cache of Israeli-made arms in a ranch owned by reputed drug lord Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, who died in a gun battle with police in December, 1989.

The Colombian authorities said they found 232 weapons, including rifles, shoulder-fired rockets and infrared night-sights.

A preliminary investigation by a special committee set up in Antigua determined that the arms shipment passed through this tiny island 250 miles (402 kilometres) southeast of Puerto Rico, on April 24, 1989, and arrived in Colombia five days later.

The government statement said Blomcooper was chosen by the cabinet on Friday because of his experience in conducting commissions of inquiry and his distinguished career as a jurist.

Blomcooper reportedly already has experience in the Caribbean, having conducted a commission of inquiry into a case of arson in a public building, corruption and other related matters in the Turks and Caicos in 1986.

See also Page 16

Zamora to ask help

LA PAZ, May 6, (Reuters): President Jaime Paz Zamora will ask US President George Bush for economic aid as proof of his commitment to help Andean nations fight drugs when the two meet in Washington next week, officials here said.

Paz Zamora is due to talk with Bush on Tuesday in their third meeting in nine months, in what officials here said would be the first official visit to the White House by a Bolivian president in 30 years.

On top of the agenda will be an analysis of progress since the February drug summit between Bush, Paz Zamora, Peruvian President Alan Garcia and Colombia's Virgilio Barco in Cartagena, Colombia.

Officials said Paz Zamora would ask Bush to back his pledge to help Andean nations fight drugs with aid for development, seen by the Bolivian administration as the only way of halting production of coca, the raw material for cocaine.

The Bolivian leader has made alternative economic development the centre of his anti-drug strategy.



Second round campaign

Peruvian presidential candidate Alberto Fujimori waves to the crowd while on a campaign stop in the outskirts of Lima on Saturday. Fujimori, candidate for the "Cambio 90" (Change 90) party, is preparing for the second round of elections which are due in a few weeks. (Reuter wirephoto)

Amnesty charges Peru

Abuses rife

LIMA, May 6, (Reuters): Peru's security forces are carrying out torture and other human rights abuses with growing impunity in their fight against leftist guerrillas, the head of Amnesty International said yesterday.

The country's human rights record this year has been at least as bad as in previous years and perhaps worse, said Ian Martin, secretary-general of the London-based organisation.

"These violations appear to be carried out with impunity. Even where investigations have established a case against members of the security forces, they have in fact not been brought to justice," Martin told a news conference.

Martin's view clashed with that of President Alan Garcia's government, whose leaders have said security forces were improving respect for human rights.

"The scale of these violations unfortunately has been as high or higher in 1989 and so far this year...as in previous years," he said.

Both government forces and leftist guerrillas were guilty of abuses but guerrilla crimes "do not justify the denial of the most fundamental human rights" by security forces, he said.

Salvador peace talks in Mexico

Jesuits case evidence vanishes

MEXICO CITY, May 6, (Reuters): Representatives from El Salvador's political parties met in Mexico City with leftist rebel leaders yesterday to discuss prospects for peace in their war-torn homeland.

Delegates from both sides in El Salvador's civil war were tight-lipped about the proposals they would make at the meeting. The talks brought together representatives of the leftist Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) and eight political parties for the first time in the conflict.

The representatives, including rebel leader Shakil Handal, and Armando Calderon Sol, president of El Salvador's ruling National Republican Alliance, said they were encouraged by progress towards peace after a decade of war.

"The conditions for peace are better than ever," Guillermo Ungo, head of the left-wing National Revolutionary Movement, told reporters before entering the closed-door talks at a hotel in southern Mexico City.

Handal said the meeting could lay the groundwork for direct peace talks this month between the FMLN and El Salvador's US-backed government.

He and other participants in the

talks here said they could last through Sunday afternoon.

A previous round of peace talks aimed at ending the Salvadorean conflict broke down in October, shortly before a rebel offensive which claimed more than 2,000 lives.

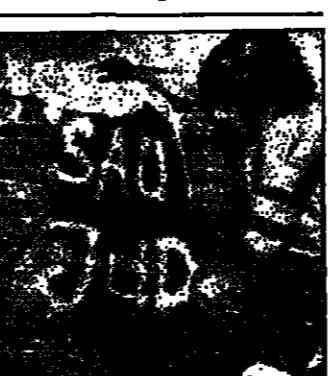
Some 75,000 people died in the conflict.

Evidence has vanished and potential witnesses failed to testify in El Salvador's investigation into the murder of six Jesuit priests last November, the court in charge of the case said yesterday.

In a statement carried by newspapers, the court quoted military authorities as saying a ledger of possibly key troop movements at San Salvador's military academy on Brecht's grave site.

Police, who covered the slogan with linen sheets, said they had no clue as to who was responsible. The Brecht Centre said it would begin cleaning off the slogans immediately.

"Sheer anti-Semitism, outrageous and shocking at the same time," Brecht's daughter, Barbara Schall-Brecht, was quoted as saying by the official East German news agency ADN. (Reuter wirephoto)



'Jews out'

Vandals daubed anti-Semitic slogans at the Berlin East Berlin graves of German playwright Bertolt Brecht and his actress wife Helene Weigel, the city's Brecht Centre said on Saturday. 'Jews out' was spray-painted during the night on the wall behind the tombs and 'Jewish pig' on Brecht's grave site.

Police, who covered the slogan with linen sheets, said they had no clue as to who was responsible. The Brecht Centre said it would begin cleaning off the slogans immediately.

"Sheer anti-Semitism, outrageous and shocking at the same time," Brecht's daughter, Barbara Schall-Brecht, was quoted as saying by the official East German news agency ADN. (Reuter wirephoto)

Panama undecided over army formation, questions retaining pro-Noriega officers

PANAMA CITY, May 6, (AP): Panama's once-feared military is a shadow of its former self following the ouster of Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega. Its new role and make-up are undecided.

The new public forces include officers who were loyal to the toppled dictator, and many Panamanians question whether they should have major roles in the new military.

"Panamanians won't accept that officers of the old defence forces could be those, who, in a democracy, control the police. To think about uniforming and arming those who for many years oppressed, punished and tortured is not an easy task," said the newspaper Panama America.

Alberto Conte, head of the business coalition Civic

Crusade, said the makeup of the armed forces should be put to a vote.

Keeping Noriega's old officers "doesn't offer any guarantee that the new public forces will be efficient, respectful and demilitarised," said Conte, whose coalition is stanchly anti-Noriega.

Eusebio Marchosky, who is probing the alleged theft of state property by Noriega and his aides, said the old guard is hindering his work.

Retaining Noriega officers, he said, "is against the national will" and will stand as an obstacle to national reconciliation following the US invasion of Panama last December.

Ricardo Arias Calderon, Panama's second vice

First Lady's homespun image rules her out as a fit model

Feminists furore over Barbara invitation

WELLESLEY, Massachusetts, May 6, (Reuters): US First Lady Barbara Bush has stirred a national debate by incurring the wrath of militant feminist students at a small Boston college where she is due to speak.

Feminists at Wellesley College say Mrs Bush, who is to be graduation speaker, has subordinated her life and career to that of her president-husband.

Her homespun, grandmotherly image rules her out as a fit model for ambitious women of the 1990s, they say.

Two decades after the bra-burning heyday of feminism, the protest against Mrs Bush, who dropped out of school to marry George Bush in 1945, has renewed national debate about a woman's choice between career or family.

Bush himself has become involved in the furore — assuring the young women of Wellesley they have a lot to learn from his wife.

"These young women can have a lot to learn from Barbara Bush and from her unselfishness and from her advocacy of literacy and from her being a good mother," he told a Washington news conference.

"To honour Barbara Bush as a commencement speaker is to honour a woman who has gained recognition through the achievements of her husband, which contravenes what we have been taught over the last four years," 150 students wrote in a petition to Wellesley president Nazmeri Keohane.

Dr Keohane says Mrs Bush will still speak on June 1, and calls the whole debate healthy, albeit complex.

"Feminism is very hard to pin down, but it is certainly not anti-family," Keohane said in a recent interview.

Mrs Bush is known as a home-loving woman — a supportive wife and mother.

But she says the students' protest is reasonable.

"I chose to live the life I've lived, and I think it's been fabulously exciting, interesting, involved life...they're 21 years old and they're looking at life from that perspective. I don't disagree with what they're looking at," she told reporters at a White House lunch.

Opinion is split at Wellesley, an elegant, elite college of 2,200 students.

"I feel a bit embarrassed for poor Mrs Bush

coming here knowing people don't want her," said Joanna Drell, a 1987 graduate.

"She's a perfectly nice woman who raised four children," said Drell. "But we could have had any mother."

Variny Em, a 21-year-old senior, favoured Mrs Bush's invitation. "We are students of today. We have choices that weren't available back then. They couldn't even fathom motherhood — we want it all," said Em.

Black feminist writer Alice Walker was originally chosen to speak but could not appear.

"Her [Mrs Bush's] professional achievements are not, I believe, as strong as the other candidates. But being the wife of a President is a very tough job, very real," said freshman Felicia Wilkerson, 18.



Firefighters and rescue personnel survey the scene after a DC-6 cargo plane crashed into a crowded residential area in Guatemala City on Saturday, killing at least 16 people when it hit the ground, authorities said. (Reuter wirephoto)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Scores held in party-turned-riot: Hundreds of young people battled police with rocks and bottles overnight in a party-turned-not that led to scores of arrests and several injuries in Chico, California, authorities reported.

At least five police officers were hurt clashing with an "extremely hostile and aggressive" mob that numbered about 1,000 people Friday night, a fire department report said.

"At least one gasoline bomb was tossed and police were pelted with bottles, rocks and beer cans. At least one policeman needed hospital treatment. (AP)"

Exxon criminal trial put off: Exxon Corp. and its shipping company have persuaded a judge that criminal charges stemming from the nation's largest oil spill are too complicated to be heard as soon June 18.

US District Judge Russell Holland has postponed the trial indefinitely.

The June 18 date was originally chosen to comply with a federal rule that requires cases to be heard within a certain time after charges are brought.

Exxon and Exxon Shipping Co. are charged with two felonies and three lesser offences. (AP)

Columnist makes racial slur: A Pulitzer prize-winning US columnist called a Korean-American journalist on his newspaper "a yellow cur" and was subsequently criticised by his editor, a publishing report said Saturday.

Jimmy Breslin, a columnist for the prominent New York Daily News, lashed out at metro reporter Ji-Yeon Yuh, calling her "stanti-eyed" and a "yellow cur." Friday after she criticised a column in which he bemoaned his wife's decision to go to work as a city councilwoman.

The racial insult was reported by New York Daily News and it cited a letter to Newsday editor Anthony Manno written by reporter Jesse Mangaliman, and signed by 46 other staffers, as its source on the incident. (UPI)

Discovery delayed: Bad weather delayed the space shuttle Discovery at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, Saturday, partway through its return trip to Florida from California atop a jumbo jet.

The shuttle, riding piggyback on a specially equipped Boeing 747, arrived in the afternoon from Edwards Air Force Base in the California desert.

The next leg of the flight back to Kennedy Space Centre was delayed at least until Sunday because of bad weather farther east, said Sgt. Reed Henderson, spokesman for Sheppard Air Force Base.

Discovery landed at Edwards on April 29 after a mission to deploy the Hubble space telescope. (AP)

Ex-ABC president dead: Elton H. Rule, the former ABC television network chief who was credited with the network's rise to broadcasting dominance in the 1970s, died of cancer Saturday at his home. He was 73.

Rule, named president of ABC in 1968 and chief operating officer in 1972, introduced such innovations as the made-for-television movie and ABC Monday night football.

He also signed producer Aaron Spelling to an exclusive contract to produce programme for ABC. Spelling produced such series as the "The Mod Squad," "Starsky and Hutch," "The Love Boat" and "Charlie's Angels."

"Elton was universally admired by all who knew him," said Thomas S. Murphy, chairman and chief executive officer of Capital Cities-ABC Inc. "He led ABC from a third-place network to equality with CBS and NBC. We are all saddened by his passing." (AP)

Penny penalty: Margaret Monroe, told Wagner he had to collect the pennies into rolls of 50.

After they argued a while, Monroe called Plum into the courtroom, and he told Wagner the same thing. When Wagner again refused, Plum cited him for contempt and fined him \$150.

Contempt, fine

PARKERSBURG, West Virginia, May 6, (AP): A penny saved may be a penny earned, but Gary Wagner only earned time in jail when he tried to use pennies to pay a \$441 fine. He spent three hours in the Wood county jail for contempt.

County magistrate Charles "Ed" Plum levied the fine early this year after Wagner pleaded guilty to battery after shoving a neighbour. Monday was his deadline for paying the fine, and he showed up lugging 12 canvas bags filled with pennies.



Bun Festival

A young girl, dressed as a sea goddess, leads the grand procession during the Bun Festival on Hong Kong's Cheung Chau Island on Sunday. The four-day festival is held every spring to placate restless and hungry ghosts that are believed to haunt the island. (Reuter wirephoto)

Dalai Lama rapped

BELING, May 6, (Reuter): China today criticised Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, for making a "great fuss" about human rights in the remote Himalayan region and ignoring former times when subjects were forced to have ears.

Foreign diplomats said the outburst was part of an ongoing propaganda campaign against the Dalai Lama, who won the Nobel Peace prize last year for his struggle for Tibetan independence from China.

They said the campaign had intensified since last week when martial law was lifted in Tibet's capital, Lhasa, a move seen by diplomats as a conciliatory gesture by China to Western nations imposing sanctions against Beijing.

"The Dalai Lama made a great fuss about freedom and human rights in China's Tibet autonomous region recently during his tour of several countries," the New China News Agency said in an editorial.

"However," it said, "he has not uttered a single word about serfdom which denied the Tibetan people human rights when he ruled Tibet."

The taxes in Tibet were exceptionally numerous. A serf even had to pay for having ears."

Farmers poisoning scare

BANGKOK, May 6, (Reuter): Up to 100,000 farmers in Thailand could be suffering from pesticide poisoning caused by walking barefoot through rice paddies full of toxic residues, a study reported today.

The figure is an estimate based on the latest findings of a government survey carried in the Nation newspaper.

Of 338 farmers interviewed, 51.3 per cent showed signs of toxic contamination. Thirty-one per cent demonstrated severe reactions including breathing difficulties, blurred vision, muscular convulsions and fainting, the Nation said.

Another 15 per cent showed moderate symptoms such as vomiting, sweating and exhaustion, while five per cent complained of headaches and dizziness.

Survey team leader Jarupong Boonlong told the newspaper that excessive pesticide use by farmers hoping to improve crop yields and the traditional technique of planting rice in muddy water were likely causes of the alarming contamination rate.

Big spenders

Japanese emerging

TOKYO, May 6, (AP): Seventy-year-old Kimiko Omori, once the privileged daughter of a restaurant owner, remembers the hard times when Tokyo lay in ruins. It was 1950, five years after Japan's surrender in World War II.

Her granddaughter, Norie, 22, grew up in the postwar years. Economic prosperity has changed things for her generation.

An unskilled office assistant, Norie Omori lives at home, paying her parents 30,000 yen (\$190) a month and spending the rest — 70,000 yen (\$450) on clothes, cosmetics and dinners out.

Mrs. Omori doesn't think her free-spending granddaughter is spoiled, but she can't help shaking her head and sighing, "society has really changed."

While much of Japan's working population still lead frugal lives, weighed down by high education and housing costs, younger generations with money to spend are emerging as a major consumer bloc.

Young, single women such as Norie Omori are especially being targeted.

Because they live with their parents, many young women pay few or no living expenses, holding onto their office jobs only until marriage, market research indicates.

With time and income on her hands, she and thousands like her fuel a nearly 9 trillion yen (\$36 billion) fashion industry, a 3 trillion yen (\$18 billion) travel industry and a 2 trillion yen (\$13 billion) publishing industry.

The young Japanese women are travelling together to Hawaii and Australia, devouring novels and magazines, buying leading brand-name shoes, purses and perfumes, and dining out at upscale restaurants.

These women are generous gift-givers on birthdays and Valentine's Day, and spend thousands of dollars a year on sports clubs, according to a profile compiled by Dentu, Japan's leading marketing agency.

Tokyo Disneyland, Japan's premier amusement park, overflows with young women. "Young adult females are the core of our repeat customers," said Disneyland spokesman Toshiharu Akiba. Last year, almost twice as many women visited Disneyland as men.

"Leisure is here to stay," says Akiba. "Unlike their parents, the younger generation know the joy of taking holidays, and they have the knowledge, time and the money to spend."

The 9 million Japanese who travelled abroad in 1989, some 80,000 were women aged 20 to 24. Males in the same age group, more reluctant than women to actually use their official vacations, numbered only 430,000.

In a magazine survey, 100 young female office workers in Tokyo said they spent an average of 87,600 yen (\$554) a month on clothing, food and drink and other pursuits, such as athletics or language lessons.

The women reported spending 13.5 hours a week on leisure activities, according to the May issue of Travail, a job placement magazine for women.

Japan has risen to economic superpower status since World War II partly on the sacrifices of its people, who are accustomed to long work weeks and cramped housing. But many Japanese today are seeking a higher standard of living.

Major surveys indicate that the Japanese spend on average half as much time in leisure pursuits as Americans. But the trend is changing, and it fits the new government direction.

Japan, seeking to appease the United States and other trade partners, is urging its citizens to work less and buy more in order to whittle down Japan's \$70 billion trade surplus with the world.

Consumers aren't likely to stop spending analysts say, despite slowed economic growth, forecast at about 4 per cent, and a 10 percent appreciation of the US dollar against the Japanese yen since last year.

"We don't expect a drop in consumer spending — at least for the next two years — and the reason is that Japanese people truly want to improve the quality of their lives," said Yasushi Tomisa, manager of consumer marketing studies at Dentu.

Support for Mongolian strikers grows

ULAN BATOR, May 6, (Reuter): About a thousand Mongolians demonstrated today in support of pro-democracy protesters staging a sit-in in central Ulan Bator as hunger strikers in other parts of the country fasted through an eighth day.

In China, Mongolian President Punsalmaagiyn Ochirbat continued a landmark tour and headed to inner Mongolia, a region where some three million ethnic Mongolians live under Chinese rule.

As Ochirbat met Chinese leaders, Ulan Bator's official media described the situation

at home as "chaos" caused by illegal democracy demonstrations, strikes and hunger strikes against communist authorities.

Some 38 activists from newly-formed democracy organisations remained on hunger strike in three provincial towns. Some have not eaten for eight days, nine have been taken to hospital and a few have suffered "heart problems," opposition sources said.

In Ulan Bator, around a thousand people swarmed into the central Sukhbator Square

to support about one hundred activists on the third day of a sitdown protest.

They listened to democracy leaders relating details of negotiations with the government. The opposition is demanding that an interim Parliament be set up before the nation's first contested national elections in July.

They also oppose an election law they say favours the ruling Communist Party and new regulations restricting demonstrations.

In contrast to its southern neighbour China, which ordered the army to crush

mass democracy demonstrations in Beijing last June, Mongolia's Communist Party has conceded many opposition demands.

■ Mongolia's embattled communist government and the opposition movement have set up a consultative council linked to Parliament, the official East German news agency ADN reported yesterday.

The accord was reached at talks between the government and the Mongolian Democratic Association in Ulan Bator, capital of the remote country squeezed between China and the Soviet Union.

Protests against Iliescu continue

BUCHAREST, May 6, (AP): Hunger strikers and other protesters demanding the resignation of interim President Ion Iliescu demonstrated for the 15th straight day today unimpressed with Iliescu's offer of talks and an apology for branding them "thugs."

This afternoon about 200 people milled around the 40 tents pitched by the anti-government protesters in Bucharest's downtown university square, where the 57 hunger strikers vow to fast until their demands are met.

Iliescu yesterday reversed his previous refusal to meet the protesters and offered to meet them Tuesday morning for talks.

He said however that neither the May 20 date set for free elections nor the electoral law itself were negotiable. Both were approved by the provisional Parliament that includes opposition parties.

That appeared to exclude any chance of meeting the demonstrators' demand that Iliescu and other former high-ranking communists be barred from politics.

The decision to meet the demonstrators was reached after discussions late Friday with Vice-President Ion Caramitru and other high-ranking officials.

Ruled out

As late as Thursday, senior government members had ruled out the chance of any such talks.

But Iliescu, in a statement released by state-run media late yesterday, said the change of heart resulted "from the absolute necessity of creating a civilised climate for the elections."

Opponents of Iliescu accuse the interim president, a former communist, and other members of his National Salvation Front of seeking to exploit their dominance of Romanian politics since the December revolution that ousted communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

The five main opposition parties and demonstrators who have rallied against the government in Bucharest, Brasov, Timisoara and other cities fear the ex-communists will win the elections and then establish an authoritarian regime.

The Front denies that it seeks to re-establish a form of communist rule.

Regret

In yesterday's statement, Iliescu expressed "regret for the use of the word 'thugs'" to describe the Bucharest demonstrators hours after their protest started April 22.

Iliescu's description was instrumental in galvanising support for the protesters, who took to wearing signs declaring, "I'm a thug," and greeting new speakers with a chant of, "you, too, are a hooligan."

Last Sunday, 17 people started a hunger strike to press the demands to exclude ex-communists from politics. Their numbers swelled to 57 over the week, when the protest drew evening crowds of up to 10,000.

Tribute to US troops

PLZEN, Czechoslovakia, May 6, (Reuter): Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel paid tribute today to US soldiers who liberated this town at the end of World War Two, and pledged his country would defend its new democracy.

For the 42 years until November's peaceful "velvet revolution," Czechoslovakia's communist rulers gave all the credit for the country's liberation to the Soviet Red Army and tried to erase all trace of the US role.

Havel told more than 100,000 people in the central square of the western Bohemian town, many waving American flags, that the celebrations were the repayment of a debt to those whose place in history had been denied by the toppled communists.

But Havel also paid tribute to the Russian troops who had liberated the greater part of the country in 1945, saying they deserved "our lasting respect."

"Inspired by the memory of all our past heroes I would like to state that we shall protect our new freedom," Havel said.

"If anybody threatens us militarily we shall defend ourselves with arms," he added, apparently referring to the 1968 Soviet-led invasion which crushed the country's "Prague Spring" democratic movement.

Radio ship raises tension

Goddess of Democracy sails towards China

HONG KONG, May 6, (AP): The radio ship Goddess of Democracy is raising political tensions as it sails toward the Chinese coast to broadcast pro-democracy messages, facing possible retaliation from Beijing.

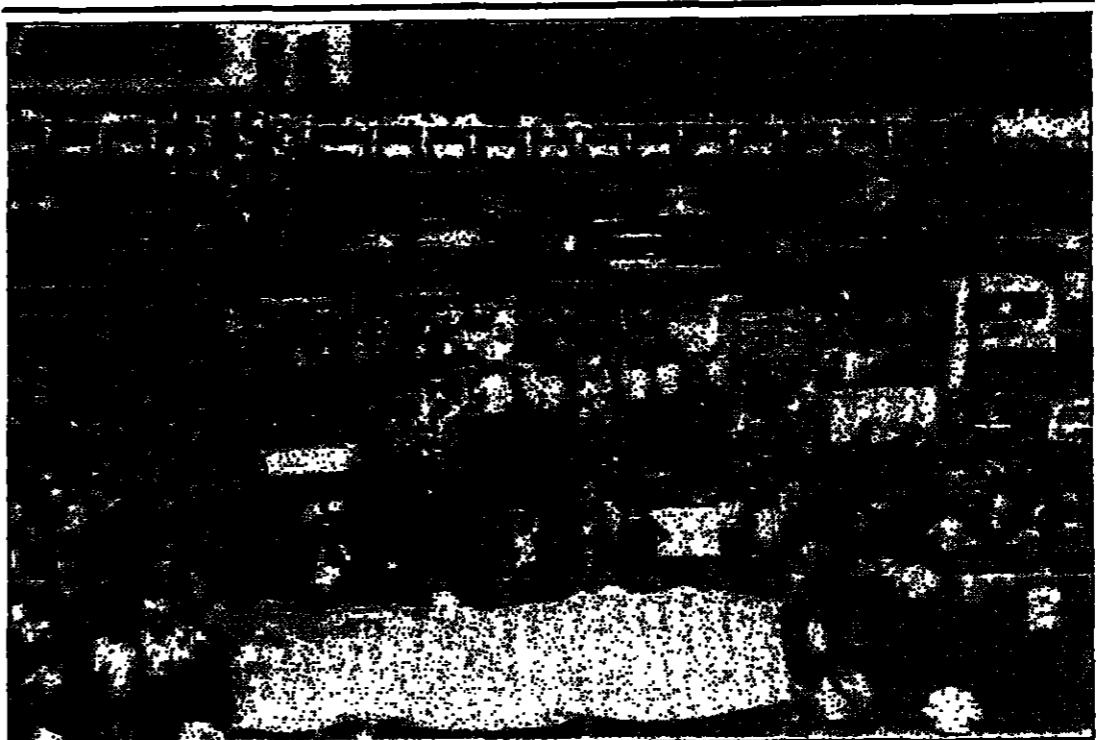
The 1,200-ton ship set sail from France on March 17 and began the leg of its voyage Thursday after taking on provisions in Singapore.

Goddess of Democracy is expected to reach international waters off China in about two weeks and begin broadcasting.

Beijing, which called in the military to crush a student-led democracy movement last June, has refused to rule out force to stop the ship.

While it appears China is unlikely to use armed force against the ship, analysts expect Beijing will likely jam the broadcasts and might even board the ship, seize equipment and make arrests.

One diplomatic source said China could try to incapacitate the ship by ramming it.



Several thousand Taiwan students marched through the streets of Taipei yesterday to protest at the nomination of army General Hau Pei-Tsun, now defence minister, to be the next premier. The protest turned violent at the end when police and students clashed. Banner reads "National Student Movement." (Reuter wirephoto)

Students, riot police clash in Taiwan

TAIPEI, May 6, (Reuters): Students marching to protest the choice of Taiwan's most powerful general as the country's next prime minister clashed with riot police today in the first violence of the fledgling pro-democracy student movement.

Witnesses said the trouble started when lines of police confronted a peaceful march of several thousand students and supporters at Taipei's railway station.

Fighting broke out when the marchers angrily refused to disband, and one student was severely beaten, witnesses said.

The protesters fell back in disarray, and clashed again with ranks of fully-equipped riot police near the presidential palace in central Taipei, they said. There was no immediate word on any arrests or other casualties.

Taiwan's state-controlled television stations and radio network made no mention of the violence or the march in their evening newscasts.

The protest march was intended as the finale of a four-day student demonstration against President Lee Teng-Hui's decision to appoint current defence minister as prime minister.

Earlier, more than 1,000 students and several thousand supporters paraded through the streets of central Taipei, yelling "if military men are in power, democracy won't come," and "oppose military intervention in government."

Witnesses said groups of marchers returned to the park after their confrontation with the police and were debating whether to continue the protest.

President Lee, who succeeded late president Chiang Ching-Kuo in 1988, was given a new term in March by ruling Nationalist Party members of the electoral college. On May 2 he announced Hau would become premier in a cabinet reshuffle to take place after his inauguration on May 20.

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Alain Juppe, secretary-general of the Rally for the Republic, told reporters the May 16 conference would serve no purpose except to create the appearance of multiparty co-operation.

The Rally for the Republic will participate only if the socialist government renounces its willingness to let recent immigrants vote and allows introduction of rightist legislation on citizenship requirements, Juppe said.

The socialists are unlikely to take either step.

Juppé agreed last month to convene the conference. His move followed a similar roundtable meeting aimed at developing a multiparty offensive against racism. Conservative leaders said at the time that racism could not be dealt with effectively except in the context of immigration.

Nepal activists refuse to join

Probe into killings

KATHMANDU, May 6, (Agencies): Prominent human rights activists Kapil Shrestha and Prakash Kafle refused today to join a government-appointed commission to investigate killings during the 7-week pro-democracy movement that toppled the partyless Panchayat regime.

In a joint letter Shrestha and Kafle said "the commission appointed by the previous regime is undemocratic and opposed to human rights and (was) formed on the last days of the Panchayat regime when massive killings took place."

The activists' refusal was a setback for the interim government of Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai. Shrestha and Kafle said they were not consulted by the government when their appointments were announced last week.

Meanwhile, the new prime minister would set up this week to frame a new constitution, stripping authority from the once all-powerful king, and complete its work within three months.

Bhattarai told reporters he also wanted King Birendra to give his two-week-old interim government legislative and executive powers to ratify a new constitution and ensure law and order.

Nepal's current constitution gives King Birendra absolute powers.

Bhattarai said the new one would make the king, traditionally regarded as a descendant of the Hindu deity Vishnu, a constitutional monarch.

There are more than a dozen communist factions in the country. Seven have formed a United Left Front and joined Bhattarai's Nepali Congress Party, the largest in Nepal, to form a provisional government.

Rightists to boycott immigration talks

PARIS, May 6, (AP): France's main rightist opposition party said yesterday it will boycott government-organised talks on immigration, jeopardising Premier Michel Rocard's quest for a non-partisan consensus on the volatile topic.

Alain Juppe, secretary-general of the Rally for the Republic, told reporters the May 16 conference would serve no purpose except to create the appearance of multiparty co-operation.

The Rally for the Republic will participate only if the socialist government

officials said.

But the sailors stationed here spend their tours of duty helping Chinese boats, not fighting them — the island sports a hospital and reception centre for fishermen, mostly from China or Hong Kong, who come to the island for help.

Beijing has accused Taipeh of provocation by giving the ship permission to dock in the northern port of Keelung.</

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INTERNATIONAL

ARAB TIMES, MONDAY, MAY 7, 1990

Nato-allied Germany in Moscow's interest

Bonn talks cleared way for quick unity

BONN, May 6. (Agencies): The Soviet Union should accept Nato membership for united Germany because a move would also be in Moscow's interest, a high-ranking West German official said today. Lutz Stavenhagen, state ministry in Chancellor Helmut Kohl's office, made the comment after a conference in Bonn yesterday on German unification.

"There are two areas where it should ... and it will be ... made clear to the Soviets that agreement would be in their interest," Stavenhagen said in an interview with Deutschlandfunk radio station.

"We want to remain a member of Nato, the entire Germany,"

Stavenhagen said. "It should be made clear to the Soviet Union that Nato will change."

He said the Western alliance would make disarmament and arms control its priorities, "things that are very much in the Soviet interest," Stavenhagen said.

He also reaffirmed Bonn's promise to guarantee East Germany's continued industrial deliveries to the Soviet Union and indicated West Germany would seek a liberalisation of high-technology exports to Eastern Europe.

West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, discussing yesterday's conference, said the meeting cleared the way for quick German unification and left it up to the Germans to determine the pace of the process.

In an interview with the ZDF television network, Genscher referred to a statement made by Shevardnadze in which the Soviet official was quoted as saying, "The settlements of interior and foreign aspects of German unity do not necessarily have to come at the same time."

The statement, translated by the West German Foreign Ministry, reflected a significant shift in the Soviet position because it decoupled the problem of Nato membership from other aspects of the unification process, ministry officials said.

"The Soviet Union now wants to delay a final solution of the external aspects in order to defuse its own domestic political doubts (about unity)," the official said.

The official said Moscow, which until recently demanded that Germany's military future be decided before unification could go ahead, was now ready to agree to only broad guidelines for the foreign ties of the united country.

NATO sources in Brussels gave the apparent shift in Soviet thinking a cautious welcome, tempered by concern that the military status of a united Germany could remain undefined for several years.

"We note that the Soviets have changed their position and we hope that they will come to realise that a united Germany being a member of Nato is also in their interest," said one official, who asked not to be identified.

He noted a progression in Soviet thinking on the issue — from an insistence on German neutrality to a suggestion of membership in both Nato and the Warsaw Pact, to an apparent postponement of the issue.

"We hope they will change their minds in the near future," said another Nato source.

World Jewish leaders gathered today in West Berlin where Hitler plotted a strategy to strip communists of their power to tell a Germany racing for unification that it bears a special responsibility for Jewish survival.

The meeting, the first by the World Jewish Congress (WJC) in Germany since clandestine sessions before World War Two, aims both to sound an alarm on German unity and to lay the foundation for a further reconciliation between Germans and Jews.

Diplomats say this division and Croatian and Slovenian calls for more autonomy could make Yugoslavia even harder to govern or break it up. It is deep in economic crisis, the federal Communist Party is in turmoil and ethnic rivalry is rising.

The League of Communists of Croatia was in power in the first election round, but in the second round it is practically in opposition," Ivo Drzic, a senior Croatian communist, said.

"The triumph of the Croatian Democratic Union is not in doubt," Jovan Raskovic, leader of the Serbian ethnic minority in Croatia, told the Belgrade newspaper Politika, today.

Final results were not expected until midweek.

Croatia and Slovenia are the only republics that have held free elections since 1958 but some other regions are expected to follow suit within about a year. A federal election is pencilled in for later this year.

Franjo Tudjman, the Croatian Democratic Union's leader and a retired army general, was hero and former political prisoner, has pledged to seek greater Croatian independence and break from the rest of Yugoslavia if need be.

He could face a tough political battle with the communist leaders in Serbia, the biggest republic, who favour strong central rule. Croatia's relationship with Serbia is the traditional pivot of power in Yugoslavia.

The 600,000-strong Serbian minority in Croatia's 4.5 million population are worried by what they call the stirring of nationalist sentiments among some members of Tudjman's party.

But Raskovic told Politika co-operation was possible between Croats and Serbs and dismissed fears of a repeat of a massacre of Serbs, Jews and gypsies carried out in the Croatian puppet state set up during World War Two.



Mobbed by supporters

Rebel Soviet communist official Boris Yeltsin is being mobbed by supporters at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport on Saturday as he returns to Moscow after touring Western capitals to promote his book. (Reuters wirephoto)

Croatians vote in crucial elections

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia, May 6. (Reuters): Croatia voted today in the second round of a parliamentary election that is almost certain to give nationalists a landslide win over the ruling communists and could widen divisions in Yugoslavia.

The 3.5 million voters started casting ballots in bright sunlight for 225 unfilled places in the 356-seat regional parliament in Croatia, Yugoslavia's second biggest republic and one of its main centre of power.

The Croatian Democratic Union, a right-wing party seeking more independence within or outside Yugoslavia, won 104 of the seats outright in the first round two weeks ago. The communists won only 13 seats and smaller parties got 14 between them.

Sunday's ballot was in districts where no candidate won more than half the votes in the first round and seats will be decided by a simple majority. Reporters said slightly fewer people appeared to be voting after a huge first round turnout.

The nationalists led in most areas and are widely expected to complete a rout of the communists who have ruled Croatia since 1945.

Their victory, just a month after neighbouring Slovenia voted to power a centre-right coalition, would create a northern pocket of anti-communism in the Balkan federation of eight republics and provinces.

Rubik's comments were reported early today by Tass, the official Soviet news agency.

Rubik spoke by telephone with Gorbachev earlier yesterday and said the Soviet leader considered the attempt by the Croatians to portray their decision as different from that by neighbouring Lithuania was "groundless," Tass reported.

The Latvian lawmakers, in adopting the declaration Friday, insisted that their path to independence was a gradual one, setting up a transition period that would include negotiations with Moscow.

The president of USSR considers that the declaration was passed May 4 by the Latvian Parliament on the restoration of

Gorby rejects Latvia move

Blockade threat

RIGA, USSR, May 6. (AP): Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev yesterday rejected Latvia's declaration of independence and threatened the Baltic republic with political, economic and administrative measures if it doesn't reverse its course, Tass reported.

Gorbachev's decision came a day after Latvia's Parliament had adopted the independence measure and was announced late last night on Latvian television by Alfreds Rubiks, the republic's Communist Party chief.

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The president of USSR considers that the declaration was passed May 4 by the Latvian Parliament on the restoration of

independence of the Latvian republic signifies a violation of constitutional norms and is leading towards the breakdown of governmental ties of the republic of the USSR. Rubiks quoted Gorbachev as saying.

Gorbachev emphasised negotiations are possible only under the conditions of Latvia's respect for the Soviet constitution, Tass quoted Rubiks as saying.

No negotiations can begin without the restoration of the governmental status of Latvia before Friday, according to the report.

Gorbachev and other Soviet leaders have used similar language in the case of Lithuania, insisting the republic return to its status as of March 10, one day before its Parliament declared independence.

Tass quoted Rubiks as saying that if the republic ignores the Soviet constitution, the president reserves the right to take political, economic and administrative measures in response.

If sanctions are applied, our sacrifices will be much greater because we have a more developed infrastructure with many more factories and enterprises...our enterprises could not wait until the problem was solved.

Almost half the republic's 2.7 million population is non-Latvian, following decades of planned mass immigration from other parts of the Soviet Union, against just 20 per cent in Lithuania.

Most of Latvia's industry consists of huge Moscow-run state concerns, all staffed and run by Russians, and would be hard to adopt to Latvia's needs.

Russians also dominate the important ports of Ventspils and Riga. The latter is the largest in the Baltic after Leningrad.

The armed forces, keen to maintain their grip on the ports and the large military academy at Riga, would be strongly opposed to the republic gaining full independence.

The large numbers of Soviet troops on Latvian soil is one of the explosives points Riga wants to discuss with Moscow.

"I think big collisions lie ahead of us on our soil," Gustaitis said. "The local population is reacting in its own way by buying up the foodstuffs in the shops."

Latvian President Anatolijus Gorbovniks told reporters yesterday that Latvia had fewer natural resources than Lithuania and that support for Vilnius would have to be mainly political.

Latvians brace up for long struggle

MOSCOW, May 6. (Reuters): The republic of Latvia, whose independence declaration has been denounced by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, is preparing for what could be a long struggle between the breakaway Baltic region and the Kremlin.

Local residents, well aware of the crippling effects of an economic blockade imposed on neighbouring Lithuania, were reported today to be buying up food stocks in shops.

"I'm sure there will be some sort of blockade," said Latvian television journalist Janis Gavars, a member of the Parliament which passed the declaration on Friday.

"But that's life. We are ready for everything. We voted for the declaration and knew what we were doing," he said by telephone from the Latvian capital.

The denunciation, despite attempts by the republic's leaders to placate the Kremlin, seems to put Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania on a collision course with Moscow.

Gorbachev was quoted yesterday by Alfreds Rubiks, head of Latvia's pro-Moscow Communist Party, as saying the republic's declaration of independence was a "breach of constitutional norms" and that there could be no talks unless full Soviet sovereignty was restored.

Gorbachev's remarks seemed likely to reinforce growing links between the Baltic republics, all forcibly incorporated into the Soviet Union by Josef Stalin in 1940.

The Latvian Popular Front said Gorbachev's attack would be debated by deputies tomorrow. The front and its allies command a majority in Parliament.

"People are worried that what is happening to Lithuania could happen to them, although the situation is somewhat different here," said Anton Gustaitis, a journalist with Atmoda, the Latvian Popular Front's newspaper.

"If sanctions are applied, our sacrifices will be much greater because we have a more developed infrastructure with many more factories and enterprises...our enterprises could not wait until the problem was solved."

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Skull

Stigma of Red rule

SOFIA, May 6. (Reuters): The leader of Bulgaria's opposition electoral campaign keeps a smashed and blackened human skull in a drawer of his desk — a reminder, he says, of the effects of communism on his country.

The skull, which was taken from a mass grave in southern Bulgaria, is thought to have belonged to a priest executed by the communists without trial in 1944 and represents one of the reasons why the opposition Union of Democratic Forces is confident it will win Bulgaria's first free parliamentary elections in four decades next month.

"You can see this man was probably killed with acid," said Petko Simeonov, showing off the skull and a pair of rusted handcuffs he says were found on the skeleton.

"How many millions of posters are the communists going to have to print to erase the effects of this?"



Hello Mazowiecki!

US Secretary of State James Baker (left) greets Polish Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki yesterday. Baker brought the Polish government a formal invitation to join six-power talks on German unification in discussing guarantees for the post-war Polish-German border. (Reuters wirephoto)

EAST GERMAN Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere (right) smiles when he puts his ballot paper into the ballot box for the East German local elections yesterday. At left, Ivo Racan, Croatian Communist Party leader, casts his ballot yesterday in the second leg of first multi-party elections in Croatia since 1945. (Reuters wirephoto)

WEST GERMAN Prime Minister Helmut Kohl (left) and US Secretary of State James Baker (right) shake hands after a press conference in Bonn yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

WEST GERMAN Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher (left) and US Secretary of State James Baker (right) shake hands after a press conference in Bonn yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

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WEST GERMAN Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher (left) and US Secretary of State James Baker (right) shake hands after

Kuwait Red Crescent general assembly meets

Material aid to flood victims

KUWAIT. May 6. (Kuna): The general assembly of the Kuwaiti Red Crescent Society holds its 24th regular annual meeting today at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The society's secretary general Barges Hmoud Al Barges said the meeting would elect five members of the board of directors, indicating a number of candidate would contest for the vacancies including the outgoing board members Abel Aziz Hamad Al Saqr, Yousef Ibrahim Al Ghani, Rajab Ali Al Rajaib, Abdel Karim Jaafar and Suleiman Fraij Al Ali.

In today's meeting, the society discussed the annual report on its activities during the previous year, a report by the accounts

controller, covering the society's budget and expenditure estimations for current fiscal.

Last year, the society organised the 11th training session on first aid in collaboration with the medical association, an affiliate of the faculty of medicine. Forty-five participants took part in that course.

Activities

The women's committee also organised a training session on tailoring in which 23 trainees took part.

- The society also organised another session for 35 dentists and despatched volunteers to several activities inside Kuwait and abroad.

Within the frame work of its humanitarian activities during the last year, the society paid visits to youth hostels, elderly homes, took part in fund-raising functions in the country and offered medical care to pilgrims.

Regarding foreign assistance, the society granted cash donations to Bahraini and Palestinian Red Crescent societies and sent material aid to the victims of floods in Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Sudan and Bangladesh.

The society exerted efforts to muster international support for the heroic Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories in health, social, humanitarian and information fields.

Barges Al Barges, secretary-general of the society, conducted intensive contacts with American and European organisations and held several meetings with representatives of the international committee for human rights and the international committee for the Red Crescent and the Red Cross and urged them to assist Palestinian doctors and nurses in securing medical treatment for the sick and the victims of Zionist suppression.

Through its branch in Pakistan's northern city of Peshawar, the Kuwaiti Red Crescent Society offered health and social services to displaced Afghans and established a 20-bed hospital in addition to a number of clinics in border areas.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Premier receives

KUWAIT. May 6. (Kuna): The Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdulllah yesterday received at the Bayan Palace Social Affairs and Labour Minister Sheikh Nasser Mohammad Al Ahmad, State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Abdul Aziz Al Rashed and Ahmad Governor Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem.

Illiteracy meeting

KUWAIT. May 6. (Kuna): The Crown Prince and Prime Minister's wife Sheikha Latifa Al Fahd Al Sabah yesterday inaugurated the regional conference on eradication of illiteracy in the GCC member states.

The conference is organised by the Social Service Centre and Kuwait University.

Rector of the University Dr Shuaib Abdullah Shuaib addressed the opening ceremony saying that the gathering came in response to a decision taken by Unesco and in accordance with the efforts exerted by Arab and international organisation.

A number of government and non-government establishments are participating in the conference which is held on the occasion of the international year of eradication of illiteracy.

Jaber returns

KUWAIT. May 6. (Kuna): Director-general of Kuwait Civil Aviation Department Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Abdulla Al Ahmed Al Sabah returned home from Cairo, where he signed a memorandum of understanding with the Egyptian civil aviation authorities.

A department statement noted that Sheikh Jaber and Board Chairman of the Egyptian Civil Aviation Authority Maj. Gen. Ali Othman Ziko signed the memorandum following meetings between Kuwaiti and Egyptian delegations.

It indicated that the memorandum would enable the two airlines to increase the organised weekly flight between Kuwait and Cairo allowing each airline to carry 3,400 passengers from one end to another weekly during summer season and 2,100 passengers in winter season.

The decision will go into effect from the 1991 summer season to meet the growing number of passengers.

Planning training

KUWAIT. May 6. (Kuna): Planning Minister Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi yesterday inaugurated four training courses at the Arab Planning Institute (API).

The training courses range between seminars on foreign debts, to preparing, executing and administering projects, to transport projects evaluation and evaluation of industrial ventures.

Awadi highlighted, in an opening statement, that the courses primarily target improving productivity, realising Arab development in various spheres and upgrading the decision-making process.

The one to four week courses are attending by 70 trainees from all Arab countries.

Aviation delegation

KUWAIT. May 6. (Kuna): A three-member delegation of the Civil Aviation Department left Kuwait yesterday for France to represent the country in a preparatory meeting of the regional European bureau of the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

A CAD release said that the meeting scheduled to open in Paris today would discuss developing the distribution network of air navigation cables and meteorology among world airports.

Salem received

KUWAIT. May 6. (Kuna): Moroccan heir apparent Prince Mohammed Bin Al Hassan received today Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah at Al Salam palace.

The meeting was attended by head of the mission of honour and State Minister for Housing Affairs Nasser Al Roudhan and senior members of the delegation accompanying the Moroccan royal family.



Kendal received

Interior Ministry Undersecretary Maj. Gen. Yousuf Bader Al Khorafi received at his office the visiting Interpol Secretary-General D. Kendal. He was accompanied by the Interpol Middle and Far East liaison officer.

Arabian conservation

Oman renews efforts to save rare mountain goat

MUSCAT. May 6. (AP): A renewed effort to save the Arabian Tahr species of primitive mountain goat is to be made in Oman, a senior conservation officials said yesterday.

A second captive breeding programme will be launched to reinforce a conservation campaign aimed at preventing the extinction of the Tahr, one of the rarest mammals in the world, said Ralph Daly, conservation advisor to Oman's ruler, Sultan Qaboos.

"We believe it is vital to broaden the genetic base of the only Tahr population left in the world," Daly said. "An initial breeding programme for scientific study of around 14 Tahr at the captive breeding centre at Bait Al Barakah will be supplemented by a second breeding programme in Northern Oman to ensure we have animals of different lines."

The world's last remaining Arabian Tahr are found only in

the Sultanate's Northern Hajar mountain range and neighbouring mountains in the United Arab Emirates.

It is most clearly related to the Chamois and Musk Ox and its preferred habitat are the slopes of steep, north-facing mountains.

The government established the Wadi Sarin Nature Reserve to protect the species in the wild after Tahr hunting by man was officially banned in 1975.

The reserve, 45 kilometres (28 miles) southwest of Muscat, forms part of the Hajar Range which runs in a crescent from the Strait of Hormuz on the Musandam Peninsula in the north 650 kilometres (406 miles) southeast, to the edge of the Wahiba sands.

The reserve area occupies the steep and rocky terrain of the 2,000-metre (6,500 feet) high Jebel Aswad or Black Mountain, and is closed to the public.

Seventeen mountain tribesmen known as "Mushrafyn" or

guardians, monitor the movement of the Tahr, said Daly.

The size of the population was still being determined but could be between 1,000 and 2,000, he said.

The Arabian Tahr is a territorial species and survives on fruit, seeds, young shoots and grasses.

It is hunted in the wild by leopards, hyenas and wolves living in Oman's northern mountains. Its young kids are prey to eagles, ravens and red foxes.

The majority of the research work carried out on behalf of the government has been led by Muscat-based British Wildlife Biologist Dr Paul Munton, 41, from London.

He described the Arabian Tahr as "not a well-adapted desert dweller but a relic of a more temperate fauna hanging on to life in the coolest and most sheltered parts of the most difficult mountains of Arabia."

Adherence to Haj quotas: Saudis

RIYADH. May 6. (Kuna): An official Saudi source today affirmed his country's difference to the decision endorsed by the 17th Islamic foreign ministers' conference in respect to the quota of pilgrims allowed for each Islamic country during the Hajj season.

In a statement, carried by the Saudi Press Agency (SPA), the source was replying to a report for the Associated Press in which it quoted an Iranian official source as saying: "Iran has emphasised the right of pilgrims to stage demonstrations during the Hajj season and that the intensified mediation between Iran and Saudi Arabia has failed in settling the

number of Iranian pilgrims."

The Saudi official once again affirmed that his country will continue to adhere to the foreign ministers' conference decision regarding the Hajj quotas, until the expansion project of the holy mosques is completed in order to have room for more pilgrims.

The source said that the kingdom has made itself clear to Iranian Haj delegation in the two years that it will only allow pilgrims within the quota specified for Iran.

He added that Iranians have made it a habit by rejecting decisions endorsed by the entire Islamic world.



Mercedes-Benz/Harriers raft team

Mercedes-Benz racing cars are called "Silver Arrow" on the international circuits. This became in the fifties, when one of their racing car was one kilo too heavy at the scrutineering, the crew overnight scratched off the whole point-work, so that it came within overnight limit.

After scratching off the paint the car showed its aluminium, silver-coloured, from where it got its name.

This particular car won the races. The same happened with the Hash House Harriers Rafts. HHH are entering the races next Friday, as Silver Arrows or as Germans say: "Silberfeil."

The races start at 10.30 am at the Messilah Beach Hotel and everybody is welcome.

Cabinet briefed on Opec meeting

KUWAIT. May 6. (Kuna): The Council of Ministers today held its weekly session under chairmanship of His Highness the Crown Prince and Premier, Sheikh Saad Al Abdulllah Al Salem Al Sabah to discuss a number of local and international issues.

State minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Abdul Aziz Al Rashed told newsmen that Sheikh Saad opened the meeting by welcoming back Minister of Public Health Dr Abdul Razak Yousef Al Abdul Razak for resuming duty after recovering from his illness, hoping him success in performing his duty.

Rashed said that the cabinet ministers listened to a report presented by Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Athbi on deliberations of the extraordinary ministerial meeting of Opec which recently took place in Geneva.

Sheikh Ali told the ministers that the session targeted approving means of halting the deterioration of oil prices through curtailing production of member countries and lessening the oil surplus in the international market.

The cabinet hoped that results of that meeting would help prop up oil prices to stabilise the international oil market and realise benefit of all parties concerned, Al Rashed said.

He added that the cabinet then discussed the municipal affairs committee's resolutions and their local subjects.

Manpower research

THE assistant undersecretary of the Ministry of Planning for statistics affairs, Musa Al Ameen opened at the ministry's premises a manpower research training programme at the beginning of May. The course will end June 15 of this year.

Identical programmes were undertaken in April 1972, April 1983 and March 1988, Ameen said and added that the present research envisages compiling data on 13,000 families from different sectors.

The official called on research staff to treat all information in the strictest confidentiality and to respect local traditions and social values in the course of their families.

On the other hand, the director of statistics and census department of the ministry Ahmad Al Nahedh said that research aims at estimating size of work force in the country and classification of the workers according to economic features, social status, educational standards, levels of wages and economic activities. The information will be collected from members of families who are over 15 years old, he said.

Digital symposium

KUWAIT. May 6. (Kuna): The first Gulf Digital Signal Processing Symposium opened here yesterday under the auspices of Communications Minister Abdulla Abd Al Sharhan.

Addressing the opening session, the dean of Kuwait Faculty of Technological Studies Dr Suliman Shams Eddin stressed the need for taking necessary measures to keep pace with the breathtaking developments in the field of information systems.

For his part, chairman of the symposium Tariq Durani said the subject area of the symposium is one of immense importance, as signal processing is now identified world-wide as a key technology for developments in science and engineering.

He said applications are vast, ranging from communications, control, defence and surveillance to seismic exploration for oil and gas, biomedical engineering and consumer electronics.

MPW to go ahead with various projects

Seafront to be extended

THE Ministry of Public Works has begun five projects to pave and tile a total of one million square metres of areas that include co-operative societies, schools, wedding halls and some other installations. The projects also include irrigation networks and the total cost is envisaged to be in the vicinity of KD8 million.

Disclosing this information, Minister of Public Works, Abdul Rahman Al Houti said that five more similar projects will also be carried out in the near future at a total cost of about KD11 million and on completion the total paved areas will total two million square metres.

Speaking on various constructional sectors in Kuwait, the official said that metal bridges are easily built in Kuwait and have the added advantage of being quickly dislocated and shifted to a new site. Metal bridges built in Kuwait are intended to last for 80 years if they are regularly maintained, the official said.

Tunnels and pedestrian flyovers are built to protect citizens in keeping with recommendations of studies undertaken by the Municipality, Ministry of Public Works, Traffic Department and public transportation company. Houti said that the local media should enlighten the public about the importance of using these tunnels and flyovers instead of crossing roads at unauthorised points.

Underground water

He said that the ministry has instructed contractors to protect bases of installations and basements from leakage of underground water. Technical staff of the ministry have also

been asked to address the problem of leaking in the basements of old buildings such as some government buildings, he said.

The minister attributed the increase in the levels of underground water to the increase of irrigated land and increase in the quantities of irrigated water. He added that the ministry has set up a committee to discuss and study this problem and to recommend practical solutions.

Centres

Meanwhile, the Deputy Chief Engineer of the Constructional Projects Department of the Ministry of Public Works Bader Al Qabandi was quoted as saying that the Commercial and Administrative Centre in Misriff has been accomplished and will be handed over to the ministry during this month.

In an interview with a local daily, the official said that the third and fourth stages of the waterfront project which stretches from the Amiri Diwan to Al Salam Hotel is still under study and it is expected that the relevant tender will be floated next month.

He added that the two stages which shall amount to four kilometres will contain passages for pedestrians, platforms for fishing, yards for children games and cars parking in addition to other recreational areas. He added that the project will cost about KD16 million.

Qabandi also disclosed that his department will study the rehabilitation and the re-organisation of old markets in order to keep abreast with the country's

development.

He also said that the department will undertake the construction of a temporary

premises for the Ministry of Interior at Surra, a traffic court in Ahmadiya in addition to a social

centre in each suburb.

Ministry of Public Works in coordination with the Ministries of Planning and Information will build five theatres. He pointed out that the country was in need of modern theatres with the latest state-of-the-art equipment.

On the other hand, the official disclosed that the implementation of Fish and Meat Market will begin this month. The total cost of the project will amount to KD4.5 million and will be carried out within 600 days.

He added that the fish market will group 96 stalls while the vegetable market will consist of 51 shops in addition 132 stalls. 79 shops will be made available for different foodstuffs.

In a related development, director of design at the construction department Ali Ashkanian said that the ministry is planning to float a tender for the fifth stage of the waterfront project to be extended from the Popular Cafe to Al Marzouk Pearl Building.

He added that the five-year plan 1990/1991 will include the construction of several centres at Jabriya, Salwa, Andalus and Yarmouk in addition to the construction of mosques, municipality centres, post offices, social affairs offices, police stations and car parks.

He added that his department is currently involved in the setting up of the necessary designs for several schools, health centres and mosques.

He also said that the department will undertake the construction of a temporary

pre



The earliest building so far excavated dates back to 2000 BC.



The Hellenistic complex is more recent and was built around 300 BC.



Cannons unearthed in the ruins of Failaka Island.

Story of different periods still unfolding**Failaka Island: centre of Kuwait's archaeological heritage**

By Derek Kennet

MOST KUWAITIS have been to Failaka Island. In fact it is a popular place to spend Fridays during the spring and autumn. The island lies in the mouth of Kuwait Bay just 12 and a half miles from Kuwait City, a distance covered in half an hour in the hydrofoil boats. It is also well-known that the island has been the object of a considerable amount of archaeological investigation since the Danish mission first came here in 1958. However, visitors to the excavations are probably puzzled by a mass of stone walls in the bottom of six-foot-deep holes. Who built these walls and, more importantly, all of the big archaeological sites in Kuwait are on Failaka — why is this?

One of the reasons is probably related to the strategical position which Failaka occupies in relation to

Kuwait Bay. Kuwait Bay is the only good harbour in the whole of the northern Arabian Gulf and Failaka's position means that no ship could enter or leave the bay without being seen from the island.

More interestingly we should note that it is nearly always the islands of the Arabian Gulf where the major archaeological discoveries have been made: Bahrain, Umm Al Nar (Dubai), Akkaz (Kuwait Bay), Kharg Island (Iran) and Failaka. Why is that in ancient times man chose to live on these islands? The answer to this is probably related to security from desert raiders. It is a problem that is encountered wherever settlers live on the fringes of the harsh desert environment, the domain of the desert nomads or bedouin. In the past the bedouin were, more often than not, outside the control of the rulers of the surrounding

kingdoms such as the Roman or Sasanian empires. On top of this raiding used to form an integral part of the bedouin's culture and economy. There was often continuing friction between the settled communities on the desert edge and the seemingly lawless desert raiders. It is very difficult for small farming communities to afford adequate defences against the constant threat of raiding. Defensive structures are expensive to build and costly to maintain. The solution in the Gulf was simple and cheap: go and live on an island.

As islands go Failaka has, or at least had, the added advantage that there was fresh water at a few metres below ground surface. This obviously made life on Failaka much easier. In fact we know that until a few years ago the people of Kuwait City would sail out on boats to bring fresh water back

from the wells of Failaka.

All of this makes it clear why most of Kuwait's archaeological heritage is located on the island. But still there are many questions which need to be answered: Was the island continually inhabited throughout its history or were there periods when no-one lived there at all? And what sort of life were they involved in the large-scale international trade or were they simple farmers?

With assistance from Philip Morris a team of French archaeologists have been working in collaboration with the Kuwait National Museum to try and answer these questions.

The earliest building so far excavated on the island is very old indeed, it dates to 2000 BC (4,000 years ago) and is part of a fairly sophisticated complex. The building itself is

very large with three-metre-thick walls. The indications are that this building was a tower of sorts and the most logical conclusion is that it was a watchtower and lighthouse. Failaka's position relating to sea faring has already been described. The presence of this tower is an indication that the inhabitants of the island at this period were involved in trading. This conclusion is backed up by the large number of merchant seals which came from the excavation, many of them made from imported stone.

More recent than this is the well-known Hellenistic complex. This was built around 300 BC and seems to have been the home of a small number of Greeks. The complex is small, square village surrounded by a defensive wall and ditch. The people who lived inside clearly considered themselves distinct from the other inhabitants of the

island. It is fairly sure that they were Greeks as they bought with many of their native Greek customs. For example, they built themselves a Greek temple and imported wine from the island of Rhodes in the Aegean. But what were Greeks doing on Failaka?

We know that Alexander the Great had already conducted an overland expedition as far as India. He did this because he was interested in the trading opportunities with this part of the world. He also sent his admiral back by sea with instructions to chart and describe the route. The Greeks living on Failaka were probably charged with keeping open the route and providing a refuge for ships sailing to and from the east.

Later, during the Sassanian period (around 600 AD) the island was host to a Christian community, members of the church of Nestorios which was

expelled from the Byzantine empire in the middle of the fifth century. These people built themselves a large and splendid church in the middle of the island but it seems as though they lived simple lives as farmers and fishermen playing little part in trade.

This gives some idea of the different periods of occupation which Failaka has seen, but the digging is still going on and the story is still unfolding. Most of the buildings described can be visited on the island and give a good idea of the island's past grandeur.

Whilst interviewing an elderly fisherman from Failaka I asked him where life had been better when he was a boy, in Kuwait or on Failaka. Of course, he replied that life has been better on Failaka, when I asked him why his reply was simple: Failaka is like Paris! Well, it seems that not so long ago it probably was....

Council no substitute

(Continued from Page 1)

have the right to withdraw until June 5.

Up till yesterday no new candidates for Qibla had registered raising the chances of the two candidates to be elected unopposed.

Following are the names of the candidates who registered on the seventh day:

1st constituency — Sharq
Abdul Aziz Hamad Al Thafeeri;
Muslim Abdulla Al Rasheed;Khaled Saoud Al Inez**20th constituency — Jahra**Mash'aa Mald Al Azemi
Ali Abdulla Al Saeed
Fahed Abdulla Al Shimali
Khashman Mnoukh Al Thafeeri
Khaleda Naser Milkif**22nd constituency — Riqqa**Ali Abdulla Al Mutairi
Nehar Fahed Al Ajmi
Ghat Misbir Al Azemi**23rd constituency — Sabahiyah**Naser Mohamed Al Dousari
Ali Jaber Al Mirri
Hadi Mbarak Al Hajri**4th constituency — Da'yah**

Salem Al Bou Rabia

Mohamed Taha Hussain

5th constituency — QadisyahAhmed Haji Bon Abbas
Abdu Hamed Kraibit**6th constituency — Failaka**Gazi Abdulla Al Jassar
Yousef Abdulla Al Jassar**8th constituency — Hawalli**Toukaim Fahed Al Toukaim
Salem Sulaiman Gamm

Yaqoub Youssef Al Ali

Ali Mousa Mousa Ali

Ahmed Saleh Al Dourman

9th constituency — Rawda

Faisal Naser Al Hassawi

11th constituency — Khalidiya

Shafeen Abdullaif Al Ghanim

13th constituency — Rumailiya

Abdulla Mohamed Jassim; Mjibil

Moudak Al Rumailiya; Mohamed

Hassan Al Estath

15th constituency — Farwaniya

Saleh Marib Al Jassar

17th constituency — Jleeb Al Shuyukh

Milgi Zayed Al Dajhani

18th constituency — Sulaibikhat

Khalf Daudhah Al Inez

NEWS IN BRIEF**Swar Adahab leaves**

ABU DHABI, May 6. (Kuna): Advisor to the Amiri Diwan Abdul Aziz Hussein yesterday inaugurated the first ever Kuwaiti glass painting exhibition by Kuwaiti artist Hamed

Mustafa.

The exhibition, which took place at the Free Atelier, contained 23 paintings.

Hussein described the exhibition as a "new page of arts in Kuwait." He told Kuna that talented artist Hamed succeeded in presenting marvellous and unique work of arts.

The advisor, welcoming this new kind of art in Kuwait, hoped Hamed best wishes and success in his endeavour.

The Sudanese official also met with a number of senior UAE officials and reviewed latest Islamic developments and the organisation's efforts to serve Muslims' causes.

Legal Clinic

SHOULD you have a legal, labour-related or similar problem, kindly send your questions to: Arab Times Legal Clinic. Our Kuwaiti lawyer, Khaled Tahir, replies to readers' queries. Write to Legal Clinic, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat, Kuwait or fax your questions on Fax No. 4847495.

per year. Do I get 42 days plus the Fridays for the two year period?

K.S. Kakkar

FIRST of all, you did not mention your period of employment with the company. Secondly, according to the labour law, article 38, covering annual leave for private sector labourers, every labourer who has completed one year continuous service is entitled to a leave of 14 days with full pay. This is increased to 21 days following the fifth year of continuous service. The law entitles you to get 14 working days, excluding Fridays.

As you have a contract, in your case, this depends on the contract and you are entitled to 21 calendar days, the company is giving you more than what is stipulated in the law. So you are entitled to 21 days leave per year.

ONE of my friends worked in a company for 12 years and went on vacation for three months. During his vacation, he fell ill and requested the company to extend his leave by 45 days, based on doctor's advise. He has also submitted daily certificates of doctor's certificate.

Would you please advise whether the labour laws, a company has the right to terminate his service or extend his leave?

Abbas Ali

THERE must be a valid reason for you to be absent from work. According to article 63 says that in case of illness, a medical report must be submitted. In case of a dispute, the medical report is sent to the Ministry of Public Health, through the Social Affairs Ministry. The report made by the health ministry is considered final.

You can approach the social affairs and your friend's documents will be sent to the Public Health Ministry, and if the reason is a valid one, the company will have to pay, according to Article 64 of the law (full month's wages for a period of six months and half month's wages if the period exceeds six months).

Zayed to embark on 3 country visit

ABU DHABI, May 6. (Kuna): United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan hailed the friendly and deep-rooted relations that link Arabs to Chinese, Japanese and Indonesian peoples.

Sheikh Zayed made the remarks during separate interviews with journalists from the three countries ahead of his visits to China, Japan and Indonesia starting tomorrow.

Asked about the aim of his visit to China, Sheikh Zayed said that the mission was aimed at boosting co-operation between the two countries with special emphasis on what serves the prosperity and interest of the two peoples.

"Besides enhancing bilateral co-operation, our visit to China will be an opportunity to get acquainted with the accomplishments in China in various development domains," Sheikh Zayed said.

Referring to the accomplishments made by the UAE since its independence in 1971, Sheikh Zayed told the Chinese media delegates that the development and prosperity realised by the UAE within this short period was due to a rapid economic growth and "our determination to achieve further progress and raising citizen's living standards."

"With the blessing of God the Almighty, our hope is great to proceed towards attaining further progress and prosperity," Sheikh Zayed said.

In response to a question on UAE efforts to achieve Arab unity and strengthen co-operation with developing nations, Sheikh Zayed said "our faith in God comes first, then comes our strong belief in the necessity of establishing friendship and co-operation among all countries as there is common interest for humanity as a whole ... we also believe that the power, progress and prosperity of the Arabs lies in their co-operation," he said.

In a separate interview with a Japanese media team, President Sheikh Zayed hailed the strong relations between the UAE and Japan especially in the economic field.

"The important issue that governs relations between countries is the reciprocation of good intentions between two friends ... what is achieved out of this good intention is considered useful and pleasant," Sheikh Zayed said.

On his visit to Japan, Sheikh Zayed said that he would meet with Japanese leaders to exchange views on issues of mutual interest with the aim of boosting co-operation between the two countries in various areas, specially in the economic domain.

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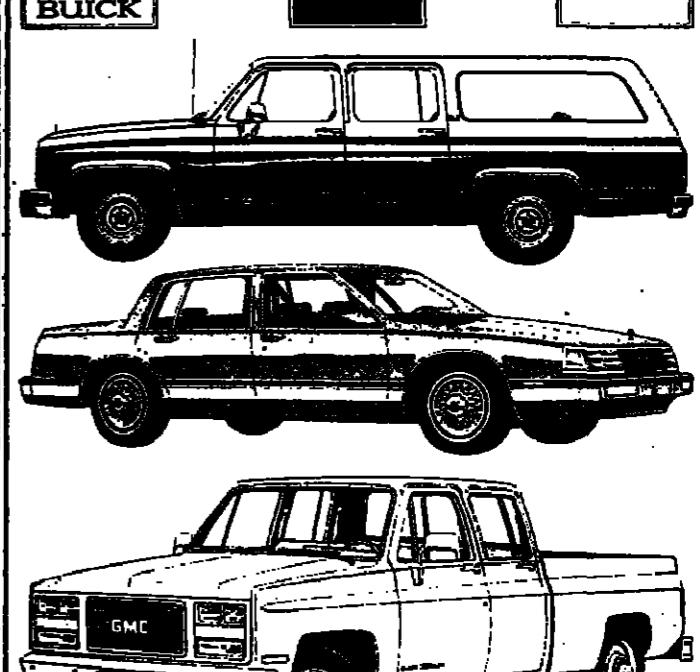
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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

I NEVER met a rich man who was happy, but I have only very occasionally met a poor man who did not want to become a rich man — Malcolm Muggeridge, English writer (1903-).

ANC meets govt

Dawn of change in South Africa

CAPE TOWN, South Africa. (AP) After centuries of racial conflict, South Africa is facing whirlwind changes as the government and its opponents negotiate to end white domination and try to find a new way to live together.

But even as the country witnesses scenes unthinkable a year or two ago, there are enormous divisions and problems to overcome. For all the rapid political change now under way, much remains the same.

The government and the African National Congress, the leading black nationalist group, began talks Wednesday to clear the way for full-scale constitutional negotiations.

For South Africans, the meeting created scenes symbolizing the historic change facing the country.

Cabinet

The head of a white-minority government, President FW De Klerk, and his cabinet smiled and chatted with ANC leaders on the sprawling grounds of an old colonial mansion that represented centuries of white wealth and privilege.

Nelson Mandela, released less than three months ago after 27 years in jail, complimented De Klerk on what he was trying to do for South Africa.

Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok and top security officials posed for picture with Walter Sisulu and other ANC leaders imprisoned for decades.

Both sides talked of ending injustice and oppression and spoke of their hopes for a new, democratic nation. Mandela, in a reference to 350 years of white domination, said the two sides were finally ending a "terrible tradition of ... master and servant."

The two sides stressed the need for rapid progress and warned that peace hopes depend on swiftly finding a solution.

The government and the ANC face enormous obstacles in solving the country's divisions. Both sides remain fundamentally divided on key issues.

De Klerk says he is committed to ending discrimination, but major apartheid laws, including segregated neighbourhoods and schools, still remain. The 2.8 million blacks have no political rights and the 3 million whites monopolize the country's wealth.

De Klerk has repeatedly rejected a simple one-person, one-vote democratic system. He says such a system would replace white domination with black control and there would be no guarantee for white rights.

Government objectives for a new constitution, according to senior officials, include some form of white legislative veto power, a bill of rights and the protection of private property, free enterprise, and some form of white and black transitional government with white control of the security forces.

Languages

The officials also say that along with English, one of the official languages should continue to be Afrikaans, the tongue of the Dutch-descended Afrikaners who account for 3 million of the white population and control the government.

The ANC has very different goals. It insists on a full-democracy with no special rights for any ethnic or racial group. It is committed to redistributing wealth to aid the millions of impoverished blacks.

Many political observers say the country's economic and social divisions may be harder to solve than its political problems.

"Black political leadership is faced with the fact that the constituency it intends to represent is relatively very poor... for them politics has to be about economics and wealth distribution," said Jan Steyn, head of the Urban Foundation, a private group that focuses on improving black living conditions.

White leaders are equally insistent on safeguarding private control of business.

Critics say it would take generations to meet even the most basic needs of the black majority, such as housing and education, if the economy is not restricted.

Leaders on both sides believe the government and the ANC will find some solution because they have no other choice.

Both sides have staked much of their credibility on securing an agreement. They are under pressure from black and white extremists who oppose any power-sharing settlement.

Constitution

Government sources said on condition of not being identified that without an agreement on a transitional government and a new constitution, the influence of right-wing whites is likely to grow.

The pro-apartheid Conservative Party won 31 per cent of the vote in parliamentary elections for whites last September.

White right-wing leaders have called on supporters to arm themselves and be ready to defend their rights against a black majority government. Several white vigilante organizations have formed.

The ANC faces similar opposition from radical black groups that talk of ending all white control and influence through armed struggle. ANC leaders say many young blacks do not want a peaceful settlement with the government.

"One should understand the very serious predicament of the ANC in regard to the deep suspicion in the minds of millions of young militant blacks who simply do not believe in the sincerity of the government," said Beyers Naude, a white Afrikaner cleric on the ANC negotiating team.

More than 600 blacks have died this year in an upsurge of factional fighting and clashes with police that coincided with De Klerk's relaxation of restrictions on political protest.

Young ANC supporters are also engaged in battles for power in black townships against rival organizations such as the Pan Africanist Congress and the Inkatha Party headed by Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1703 — British under Duke of Marlborough occupy Electorate of Cologne and subsequently take Bonn while Savoy's Prince Eugene conducts campaign in Rhineland and southern Germany.

1777 — US cruiser Surprise captures British ship Prince of Orange in English Channel.

1821 — British African Company is dissolved because of heavy expense, and Sierra Leone, Gambia and Gold Coast are taken over by British government to form British West Africa.

1848 — Polish surrender after Prussian troops crush insurrection in Warsaw.

1915 — Germans sink British liner Lusitania of Irish coast, and more than 1,000 people perish.

1943 — Allied forces take Tunis and Bizerte, and Germans retire to Cap Bon peninsula in World War II.

1954 — Dien Bien Phu is lost by French forces to North Vietnamese.

1970 — Somalia nationalizes all foreign oil companies and banks.

1971 — United States removes all controls on use of dollars in US transactions with China.

1987 — Austria's President Kurt Waldheim, alleged to have Nazi past, empowers state prosecutor's office to take legal action for slander against head of World Jewish Congress.

1988 — Rival Shiite Muslim militias fight fierce street battles for control of south Beirut's slums.

1989 — Students leaders at China's Beijing University, pressuring demands for democratic reforms, say they will continue to boycott classes for at least five more days.

Nato to undergo restructuring

Soviet fear of Germany put to rest

BRUSSELS, (Reuter): Nato is hoping to reap a rich harvest with its decision to drop controversial plans to modernise short-range nuclear missiles and artillery in Europe.

The decision, taken at a meeting of foreign ministers on Thursday, is the first part of major restructuring of the 16-nation alliance now that the cold war is over. It also lays to rest an issue that has caused major problems for Nato.

"There are enormous benefits to be gleaned from this decision, if it is correctly understood by the Soviet Union and by our peoples," said one senior Nato diplomat.

Modernise

Since the Berlin Wall was opened last November and democracy came to Eastern Europe, it has become increasingly clear that Nato could not modernise its short-range nuclear arsenal, with a range of less than 500 km (300 miles).

Such weapons, currently based almost exclusively in West Germany, could be used only on the territory of a united Germany or on the soil of Eastern European nations.

With the sharp reduction in the Soviet military threat, Nato has apparently made a virtue out of necessity.

The decision could help convince the Soviet Union that a newly united Germany would not pose a military threat and that it should be a member of the Western alliance — something that Moscow has so far opposed.

"It is no coincidence that the announcement is coming just before the talks on German unification," the diplomat said.

Foreign ministers from the four World War II allied powers — the United States, the Soviet Union, France and Britain — are meeting their counterparts from the two Germans in Bonn, to discuss the security aspects of German unification.

Beneficial

Nato Secretary-General Manfred Woerner noted at a news conference on Thursday that the decision to stop modernisation could have a beneficial effect on those talks.

"I think it will ... help find a solution to the German question," he said.

Nato sources say it is also meant to pre-empt expected Soviet demands that united Germany should be demilitarised.

But the alliance is also hoping that public opinion, anxious to cash in the "peace dividend" after four decades of East-West confrontation, will appreciate the move.

"The nuclear issue is the one that upsets most people about defence," said another Nato diplomat, who asked not to be identified. "Here, we are showing that we can take initiative, that we can change with the times."

Nato sources say that the alliance will, in future, rely most exclusively on nuclear bombs and a new generation of air-launched missiles to protect Western Europe.

The ministers also agreed to early talks with Moscow on cutting remaining short-range nuclear force (SNF), an area in which the Soviet Union has a more than ten-fold superiority.

Talks

Nato had previously said these could only begin after the implementation of an accord on cutting conventional forces in Europe (CFE).

Now, they have decided that those talks can start as soon as the ink is dry on the agreement, expected later this year.

As the alliance seeks a more political role in Europe's future security, it has also put behind it one of the most divisive issues in its 40-year history.

Britain and the United States had upset many of the other allies last year by insisting on a quick moderation of the 88 ageing US-built Lance missile launchers in Europe.

The ensuing row led to a compromise that put the issue on ice until 1992. But the recent changes in Eastern Europe brought the issue up again, with several Nato members — including West Germany and Belgium — saying publicly that modernisation was out of the question.

Harmony obstacle removed

WASHINGTON, (Reuter): The US decision to scrap plans for a new nuclear missile in Western Europe removes a prime obstacle to Nato harmony and could speed East-West arms reductions, defence experts said on Thursday.

You win all round with a move like that even if it was obvious that the missile was dead," said former assistant defence secretary Larry Korb. "You save dollars, please the Soviets and dump an issue that was splitting the Western alliance."

Bowing to a wall of opposition from allies and Congress, President George Bush said on Thursday the United States would not build a new short-range missile to replace ageing Lance missiles in West Germany that are pointed at Eastern Europe.

Bush also said he was ending modernisation of 2,000 155mm nuclear artillery shells in Western Europe, shells that could dig craters in Allied soil and were unlikely to be used anyway with democracy blooming in the Warsaw Pact.

The previous position of Nato defence ministers, who will hold a nuclear planning session in Canada next week, was that such East-West talks would not begin before a CFE agreement is signed.

The meeting near Calgary next Wednesday and Thursday is likely to go a lot more smoothly in the wake of the Bush announcement, said James Blackwell of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

"It will certainly please Bonn," Blackwell said. "It will also ease some Soviet objections to a reunified Germany joining Nato without ground-based nuclear missiles."

Most of the 88 Lance launchers, which could hurl their ageing missiles only 70 miles (112 km), were based in West Germany near its borders with East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Poland.

Nato military officials have pressed hard for the Lance replacement, saying the older missile would be obsolete and virtually unusable after the mid-1990s. The Lance dates back to 1972.

Opponents to both the Lance and its proposed "follow-on," which would have had a range of nearly 300 miles (480 km), said the missiles were no longer needed and that they would strike only West Germany and countries that are no longer a threat to the West.

The nuclear artillery shells have a range on only 9-18 miles (15-30 km).

Experts said the death of Lance still leaves the difficult question of what type of air-launched nuclear cruise missiles Nato would use as a deterrent to attack.

"But the Lance death now may be equally as important as the original Lance deployment," said Korb.

"This announcement certainly could foster an atmosphere for Moscow and Washington to agree on air-launched strategic arms."

Kohl to convince West Germans

BONN, (Reuter): After working out a deal on monetary union with East Berlin, Chancellor Helmut Kohl now has to win agreement from those who will pay for it — West Germany voters.

Kohl went a long way towards pleasing East Germans with the plan, disregarding economics to pledge that wages, pensions and much of their savings will be paid out in full in one of the world's strongest currencies, the West German mark, from July 2.

The hurried operation aims to help his fellow Christian Democrats in East Germany where voters can pass their judgement in the country's first local polls on Sunday.

Kohl is still only the West German chancellor and his fortunes rest — until all-German elections next year — on what voters here decide in general elections this December.

Generous

They seem increasingly less interested in being generous to "brothers and sister in the East" and more and more worried about how much unity will cost.

Only 15 percent of those polled favoured exchanging East for West German marks at a one-to-one rate in the monetary union now set to be launched on July 2, the magazine Spiegel reported in its latest edition.

A full 60 per cent insisted on an across-the-board rate of two-to-one, which would keep Bonn's costs low and possible avoid inflation, further interest rate rises and the tax hikes Kohl repeatedly says will not be needed.

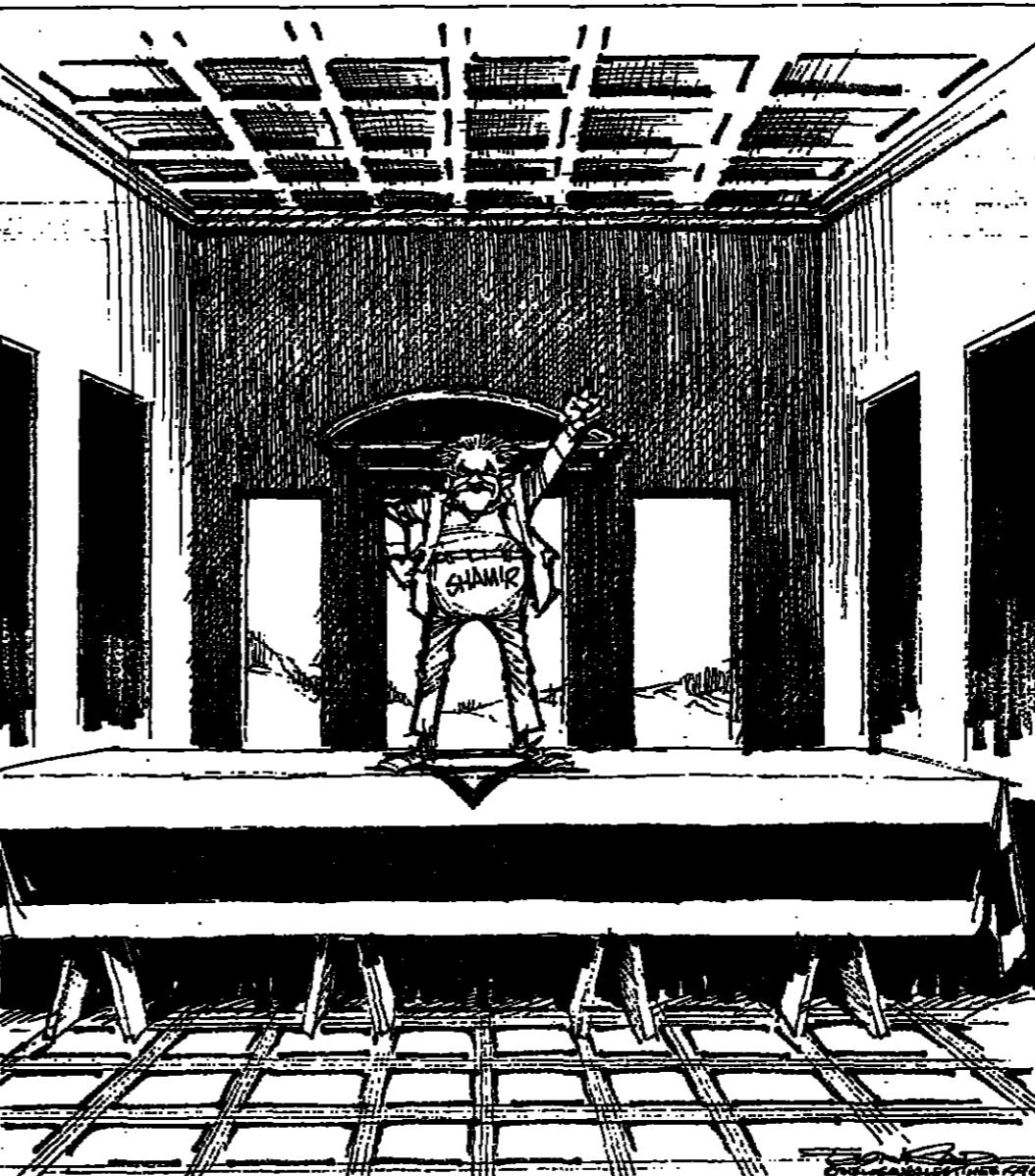
The percentage of those polled expressing concern about the value of their strong deutschmark, the pride of West Germany's post-war economic miracle, has risen from 47 in February to 52 in March and 60 in April.

"For the first time in his 40 years as a politician, Kohl acted in a way that only a fraction of the population thought was right," Spiegel commented. "On the other issues he has always had at least a very strong minority on his side."

Kohl's centre-right coalition still leads the opposition in the opinion polls, even if his peppery Social Democratic (SPD) rival Oskar Lafontaine is personally more popular.

The SPD is a weak challenger, though, especially after Lafontaine was assassinated by a would-be assassin a week ago.

Lafontaine left hospital on Wednesday, a scarf around his neck to hide the knife wound that almost killed him, and cannot campaign for the SPD for crucial state polls on May 13.



The energetic 46-year-old, who is not expected to spend too many weeks off the campaign trail and could return with a sympathy bonus, sees time on his side.

Letters to the editor

Price hikes

SIR: The people of Pakistan were given the idea during the past thirteen years that democracy is the only beacon of light which can bring the country out of the darkness of hatred and confrontation. It is the solution of the ailing economic imbalance and poverty. It is the source of eradication of illiteracy.

The dawn of democracy dawned when schedule of election was declared by the late president General Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq. Only 30 per cent votes were cast in favour of the ruling party, however in good faith the affairs of government as a majority party were handed over to them. The people were happy that the new government would alleviate their economic burden and that peace would return to the country, but hardly a month has gone by when the gas charges were increased by 46 per cent, thereafter another 15 per cent increase was done along with electricity charges.

Water charges have also been increased enormously. The prices of all the commodities have soared. When the public started crying that the inflation was unbearable, the IMF was blamed for such price hike and enhancement of taxes, whereas the IMF has only advisory status and can't force any nation to implement its advice.

This latest price hike has been done under a martial law ordinance of 1962, issued by the late F.M. Ayub Khan. It was not presented to the National Assembly for approval, one wonders why a democratic government has nipped democracy in the bud, how it defied the constitution of 1973. Should one presume that

democrats and dictators are chips of the same block, but they use different faces and methods to fool the public.

Democracy has only brought miseries for the people of Pakistan. With a population of 110 million people, Pakistan has more than 100 ministers and advisers, whereas India with a population of 800 million people has only 30 ministers. One wonders how the empty treasury is bearing the burden of 100 ministers and advisers. The burden of democracy can be borne by the literate nations, not by the nation whose literacy rate has fallen to a shameful lowest ebb of 10 per cent only.

The colleges and universities are close for the last two years. Daily seizure of cars and robbing of banks, travel agencies have further aggravated the situation. I would at the end say that the broken back of the poor can be relieved by taking the said petrol duty back. Let us preserve the future generation as other nations of the world are doing. Let every child has education according to this choice and abilities.

M. S. Sulehry,
Safat.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor

HUNGARY

An Arab Times supplement to commemorate Hungarian Week in Kuwait



Hungary: democratic changes and stability

Written by: H.E. Mr Balint Gal, Ambassador of the Republic of Hungary to the State of Kuwait



HUNGARY is currently passing through a period of deep changes and social, political and economic revival. The popular uprising of 1956 was not only the first abortive attempt in Eastern Europe to disperse the one-party system of dictatorship but it was also the starting point of a long process full of successes and failures, full of ups and downs on the road of Hungary's political and economic progress that finally led to a parliamentary democracy with a multi-party system as a result of the most recent developments.

Paving the way

Despite its weaknesses due to certain half-way solutions and faint approaches, the Hungarian reform, the birth of which dates back to 1968, was the only one in Eastern Europe to have triggered a real substantial transformation of the former economic system. The Hungarian reform owes its significance mainly to the fact that it paved the way for new alternatives and it broke away from the former practices that might be called "the policy of closed doors".

Liberalisation

The policy of liberalisation which was a prerequisite for the success of the reform brought about more freedom, more space and greater opportunities for the citizens and the enterprises. Comparative favourable conditions were created for the strengthening of the middle classes. Thanks to the reform of 1968, a rapid growth took place in the industrial and agricultural production which resulted in a significant rise in the living standards and the consumption of the population. That process, however, did not last for very long. After the oil crisis the Hungarian "national" economy was not, in spite of the widely-commended achievements of the reforms, capable of adapting itself to the changes that took place in world economy. In Hungary, economic policies failed to respond to the challenges of world market. As a consequence, balance problems arose, foreign debts increased dramatically in a trial to combat negative tendencies, and stagnation and inflationary processes started in the national economy.

The reform policies of the Soviet Union generally known as "perestroika", introduced in 1985 made it obvious for most of the Hungarian people that the main obstacle to the continuation of the economic and political transformation in Hun-

gary was not any longer represented by the bans and limits emanating from the geopolitical situation of the country but chiefly by the inadequacy of the old leadership of the party that was able to regenerate and change. This is well illustrated by the fact that the popularity index of the then secretary-general of the ruling Communist Party, Janos Kadar, fell dramatically within a very short period of time, although just a few years back the same Kadar had been considered by Western political observers as the only politician in the Eastern bloc to become the absolute winner even in a nation-wide secret ballot.

Market economy and political pluralism

In line with the loss of confidence in the party, the legitimacy of the government directed by the same party was questioned and criticised. At the extraordinary general conference of the Communist Party held in May 1988, the whole leadership was replaced by new faces, the decisions were adopted which encouraged market economy and political pluralism. Also inspired by the demands and criticism from political movements acting as the opposition, the reformist wing of the ruling party made an advance which resulted in the self-dissolution of the Communist Party in the autumn of 1989. In its place a new party named Hungarian Socialist Party was formed whose main principles agree with those of other European socialist and social-democratic parties. Parallelly, the already existing independent political movements grew into strong political parties so that from the parliamentary elections held this spring the new parties could emerge with a majority of votes large enough to form a coalition government by themselves.

The newly elected Parliament was convened on May 2, 1990. Dr Jozsef Antall, the chairman of the Hungarian Democratic Forum, a party that has won 164 from 386 seats in Parliament, has been entrusted with the formation of the new government. Expectedly, the coalition will combine the Hungarian Democratic Forum, the Independent Smallholders' Party and the Christian Democratic People's Party.

whereas the Alliance of Free Democrats, the Hungarian Socialist Party and the Federation of Young Democrats will play the role of a constructive opposition.

Peaceful transformation

This is how Hungary has benefited from the experience of her over-20-year-old economic reform and her relatively liberal practices peacefully and lawfully arriving, by the spring of 1990, at a parliamentary democracy where there are free elections based on a multi-party system and on a state government by laws. This democracy aims at the creation of a market economy with all forms of ownership enjoying equal rights to exist and grow. The institutions necessary for that have been basically established, and more is being done to this end.

The peaceful transformation backed by the overwhelming majority of the population ensures that there be a political and economic stability needed to preserve the confidence of the international community for the solution of the difficult tasks that the Hungarian nation faces at present.

Sound bases

The birth of a multi-party democratic system is viewed by the Hungarian society as the starting point of a process leading to a deep-going transformation of the national economy as well. Rapid modernisation is to be achieved in a country where the financial means at hand are scarce, and the economic background is controversial. Hungary does possess sound bases in the fields of agriculture and industry, all the same those branches are yet to be modernised and made more competitive in terms of prices and quality through the importation of foreign capital, advanced technology and modern know-how. In order to create a receptive and responding environment for the application of the mentioned external factors, it is but urgent and imperative that all preconditions for a market economy with a marked social care orientation should be further developed.

One of the basic elements of the change is the differentiated development of the various forms of ownership. Within the scope of the ownership reform the state ownership's share is to be reduced while private and foreign ownership as well as the forms of joint partnership are to be expanded. Probably the new government will very soon introduce bills to the Parliament on the institutional and jurisdictional provisions necessary for regulating the process of privatisation which must be promoted by preferential credits because of the limited amount of the available capital in private hands. A decisive role is expected to be played by direct foreign investments in the modernisation of the economy and the ownership structure. The government's foreign economic policy will probably aim at promoting the elimination of the still existing trade discrimination.

International co-operation

Hungarian foreign policy has been making great efforts in order to efficiently develop her relations with different international financial institutions and with various economic integration organisations first of all in Europe. This is a national issue bound to stand above everyday political debates between the Hungarian parties. At the same time it is Hungary's national interest to maintain a balanced relationship with all parties of the world so as to avoid the risks of a one-sided political and economic dominance. Only such an international co-operation can bring for Hungary modern technology, up-to-date management, and sufficient working capital; factories which, if combined, enable our country to preserve its sovereignty and to reduce the development gap within a relatively short period of time without running the risks of a massive impoverishment of the population.

There is hardly a country in the world that could solve its economic problems without foreign capital. The share of foreign capital investments in the industry in Hungary is just above two per cent, whereas some highly-developed medium-sized countries claim a ratio of more than 30 per cent as to the role of foreign capital in their economies. According to official figures, Spain, for example, received \$45 billion in terms of foreign investments between 1985 and 1989.

To the attention of Gulf investors

For the past few years the Hungarian government has been taking a series of comprehensive measures meant to create the legal and material guarantees essential for the attraction of foreign capital into investments serving the progress of the national economy. We are confident that the favourable investment opportunities supported by relevant laws and international agreements will arouse the attention and interest of investors from the Gulf region too.

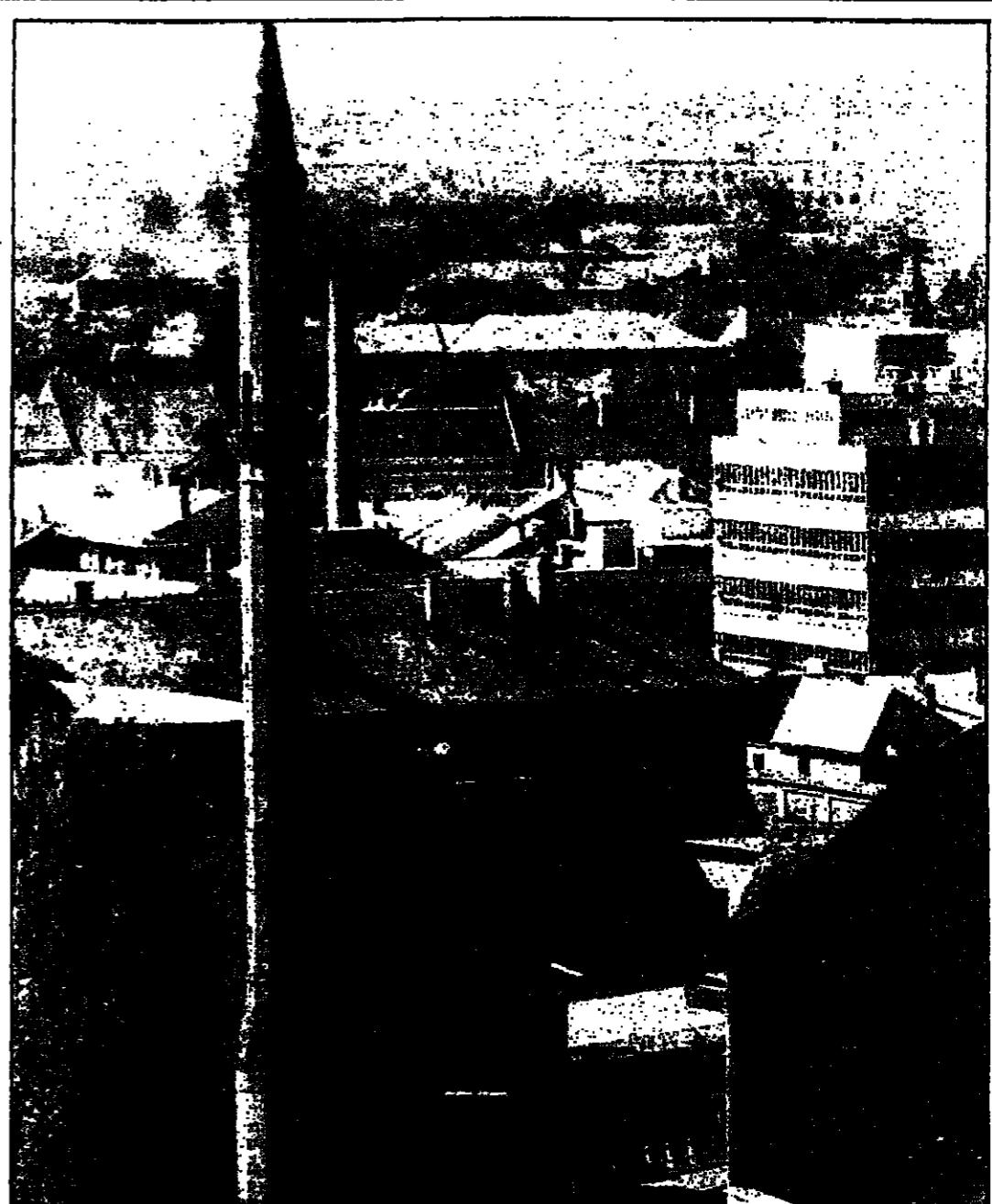
The government of the Republic of Hungary and our business circles have always been eager to foster and deepen the many-sided fruitful relationship between Hungary and the GCC states. We note with satisfaction that our partners in the Gulf have perceived our endeavours perfectly and that they have been most co-operative in responding to our goals. The mutual desire for, and interest in, the development of our relationship has been reflected by the fact that our political and diplomatic relations have been expanding with this part of the world, and a number of different consultations have taken place to discuss the future opportunities of our

bilateral co-operation. Our trade and economic relations with the Gulf region have also witnessed an impressive upswing. As a result of 40 per cent increase in the volume of Hungarian exports to the GCC as compared with last year's figures, Hungarian exports to the GCC states totalled \$125 million in 1989.

Mutual benefit for Hungary and Kuwait

With all respect to the traditionally excellent and constantly developing trade and economic relations between the Republic of Hungary and the State of Kuwait with a trade turnover reaching \$40 million (1989), we are especially satisfied that high-ranking officials of the two countries have been exchanging visits on a regular basis in order to discuss the ways of broadening our bilateral co-operation by adding new forms such as joint ventures and capital investments. Suffice it here to mention the recent visits to Budapest by the minister of electricity and water, the minister of social affairs and labour, and the minister of oil of the State of Kuwait, and the visits to Kuwait by the Hungarian minister of trade and the minister of finance, respectively. We are satisfied that an agreement was signed between the two countries in November 1989 for the encouragement and mutual protection of investments, and talks are on the way to conclude an agreement for the avoidance of double taxation.

The personal contacts between representatives of the two governments have reaffirmed the resolute desire of both sides to expand and further develop the existing bilateral relations and to open up every possible field of co-operation to the mutual benefit of our friendly countries.



An Islamic minaret in Eger, northeast Hungary. Islamic relics in Europe are located in the westernmost and northernmost parts of Hungary. Other cities also boast of Islamic art and monuments.

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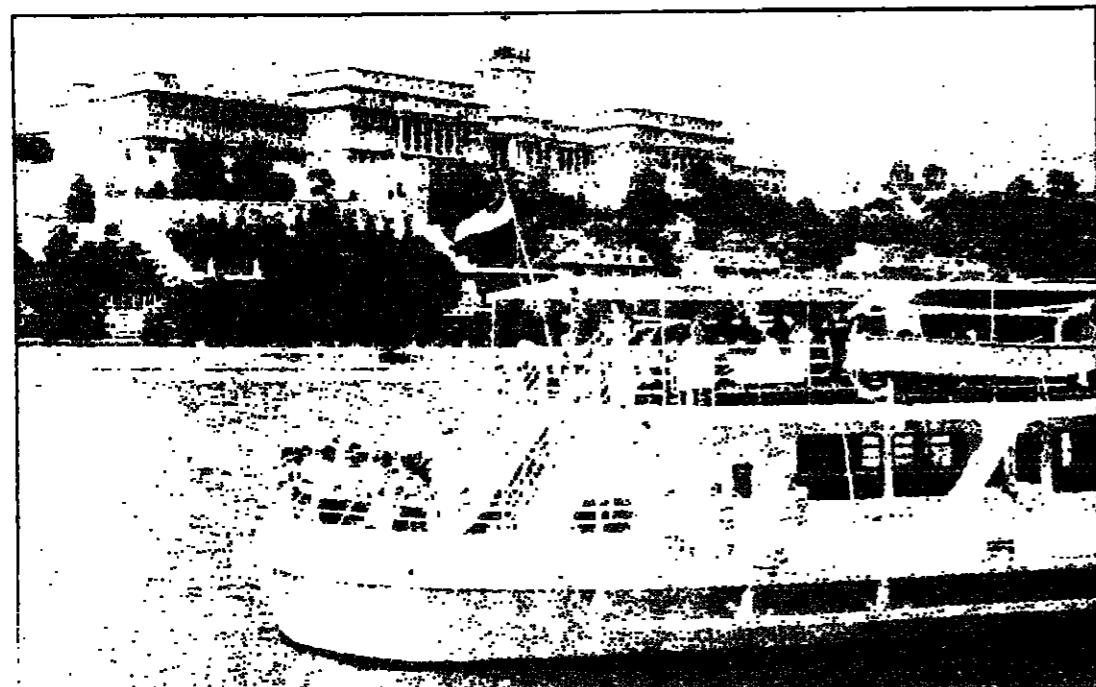
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Promising economic contacts between Hungary and Kuwait

UP to the early 1980s Hungary had significant export transactions through Kuwait to the Gulf countries, mainly to Saudi Arabia. After having established direct links to business circles in those countries, our exports to Kuwait dropped to an annual level of US\$20-25 million in the mid-eighties. Since 1988, when there were already signs for the revival of the economy of Kuwait, Hungarian companies became more active, and exploiting the boom, our exports are again increasing.

Hungarian-Kuwaiti economic relations are considered to be well organised and free of problems, and there is no discrimination against Hungarian companies in Kuwait. There are about 50 Hungarian companies active on the Kuwaiti market, and 10 have direct representations on the spot. During his visit to Kuwait in November 1989, Trade Minister Tamas Beck signed an agreement on the protection of investments, and we hope soon another agreement shall also be concluded to eliminate double taxation.

It was also during that November

visit that the Hungarian delegation suggested for the Kuwaiti party to set up an investment fund of Kuwaiti capital to assist the transformation of the Hungarian economy. The Hungarian initiative was favourably received both by the governmental and the financial circles, and the reaction of business circles was also positive. The investment fund project of US\$100-million would be supervised by the Kuwait International Investment Company with seat in Kuwait, and it was emphasised that Hungarian investment proposals were expected.

This was reinforced by the Kuwaiti side during a recent visit by Hungarian Finance Minister Laszlo Bekesi stressing that as soon as they get information on the objectives and composition of investments, they would be ready for talks. In any case, the Hungarian Trade Promotion Presentation and investment seminar taking place between May 7-10, 1990, in the Kuwait International Hotel, offers certainly good and new opportunities for such talks and decisions, from which all partners will profit.

Budapest Stock Exchange opening soon

THE Hungarian Parliament enacted the law on securities and the stock exchange, thereby removing the legal barrier in the way of transformation of the present experimental stock exchange into a genuine one. However, the existence of the relevant statutes does not mean that the brokers of the Budapest Stock Exchange will immediately handle an enormous turnover, like their colleagues in London or New York. First, the stock exchange infrastructure must be created, brokers must be trained, brokerage firms have to be set up and the companies introduced to the stock exchange.

As it is, the Companies Act and the Transformation Act — both passed last year — make it possible for the present state-owned enterprises to be transformed

into share companies, thus opening the way to privatisation.

At the beginning of the eighties the first bonds started to appear. These were so-called communal bonds, meaning that their issue was tied to some kind of public utility projects, like the laying of gas mains or construction of a telephone network.

A few years later — as of 1987 — regular company bonds could be purchased: at first only by other companies, subsequently by private citizens too. Today private persons may sell or buy even shares, which was not possible until 1988.

Currently bonds worth half a billion dollars are owned by firms, banks and private citizens. There are fewer shares on the market but experts predict that in the coming months several new, transformed companies will

appear on the stock exchange, bringing a higher turnover.

There are a few broker firms. One of them — Co-Nexus — is fully Hungarian owned, the rest are joint ventures, the foreign partner being Austrian in the one case, and American, in the other.

While the Securities Act has enabled Hungarian securities to be issued abroad, these must be first listed at the Budapest Exchange. Specialists are already engaged in floating the shares of a few Hungarian firms both in Budapest and abroad (in the given case: at the Vienna Exchange). The first three firms of this type will be: Ibusz Travel Company Ltd., Novotrade Computer Ltd. and Skala Department Stores.

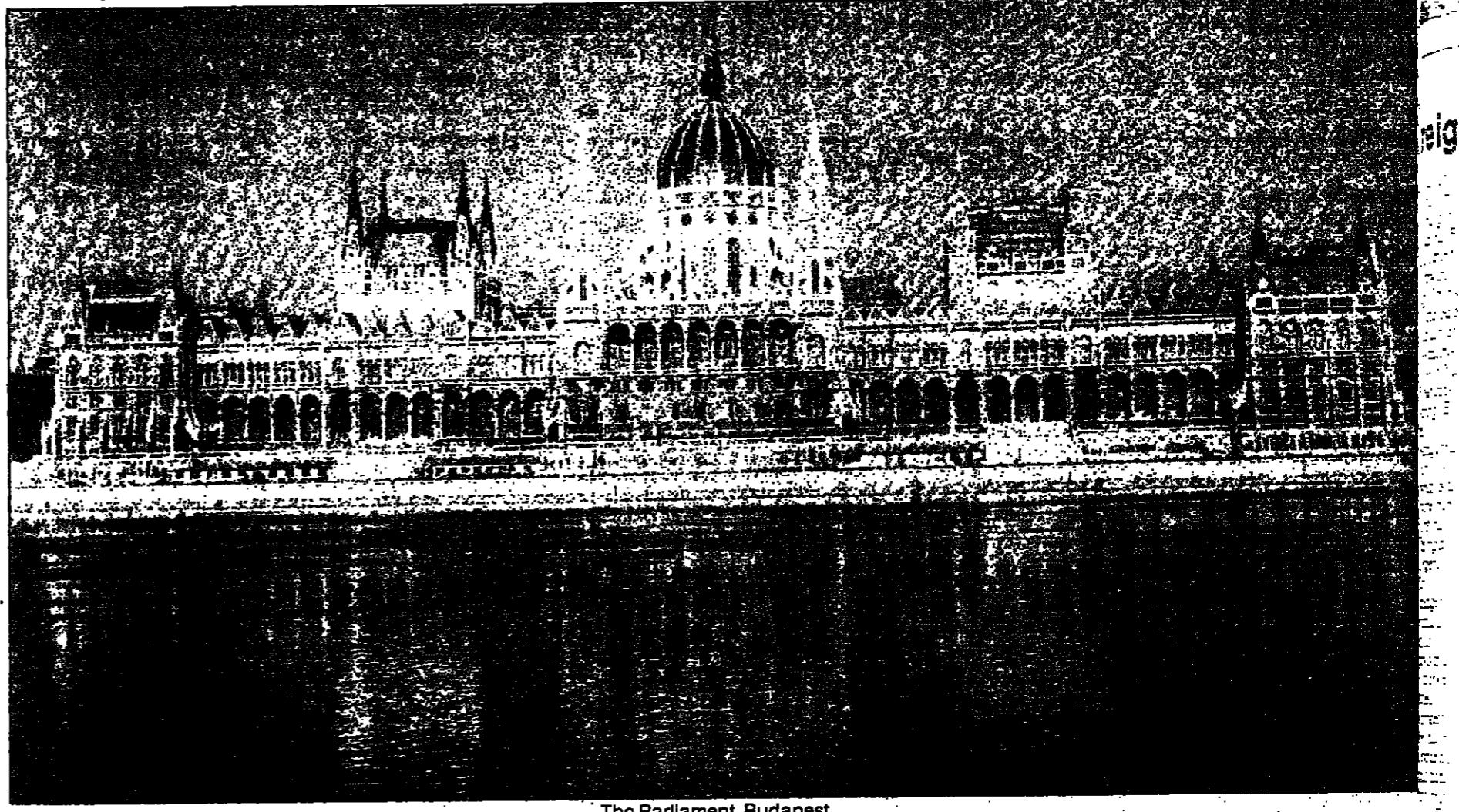
The Hungarian Stock Exchange Act offers the same degree of protection of investors' interests as any Western stock exchange. Before a company limited is listed at the exchange it is required to show a consolidated and audited balance sheet, to issue a prospectus to prospective shareholders, as well as to reveal all information which may be essential for an investor.

For the time being foreign investors may buy and sell only those Hungarian securities that are also quoted abroad; they may not deal at the Hungarian Stock Exchange.

The Hungarian Exchange is autonomous. The owners are the founding members, at present 25 banks and 3 broker firms. Major issues are referred to the General Assembly, while the day-to-day management is entrusted to the securities — Trading Secretariat and the Stock Exchange Council. The address of the secretariat

is: c/o Budapest Bank, Deak F. utca, Phone 1181-200; head: Dr. Ilona Hardy (Ms.). Trading days are held currently from 10 to 11 am at the Vaci Street Trade Centre but in the second half of the year they will move to the Budapest Bank Building.

If the first domestic and foreign stock listings are successful and as the forum gradually achieves convertibility, the experts predict an intensive interest from abroad; let's hope from Kuwaits, too. The Hungarian exchange is a developing exchange and so, like its counterparts (in Portugal, Spain and Turkey) it looks forward to a sizeable upswing. The two Hungarian country funds, the second of which was listed in London a few weeks ago, are based on this expectation.



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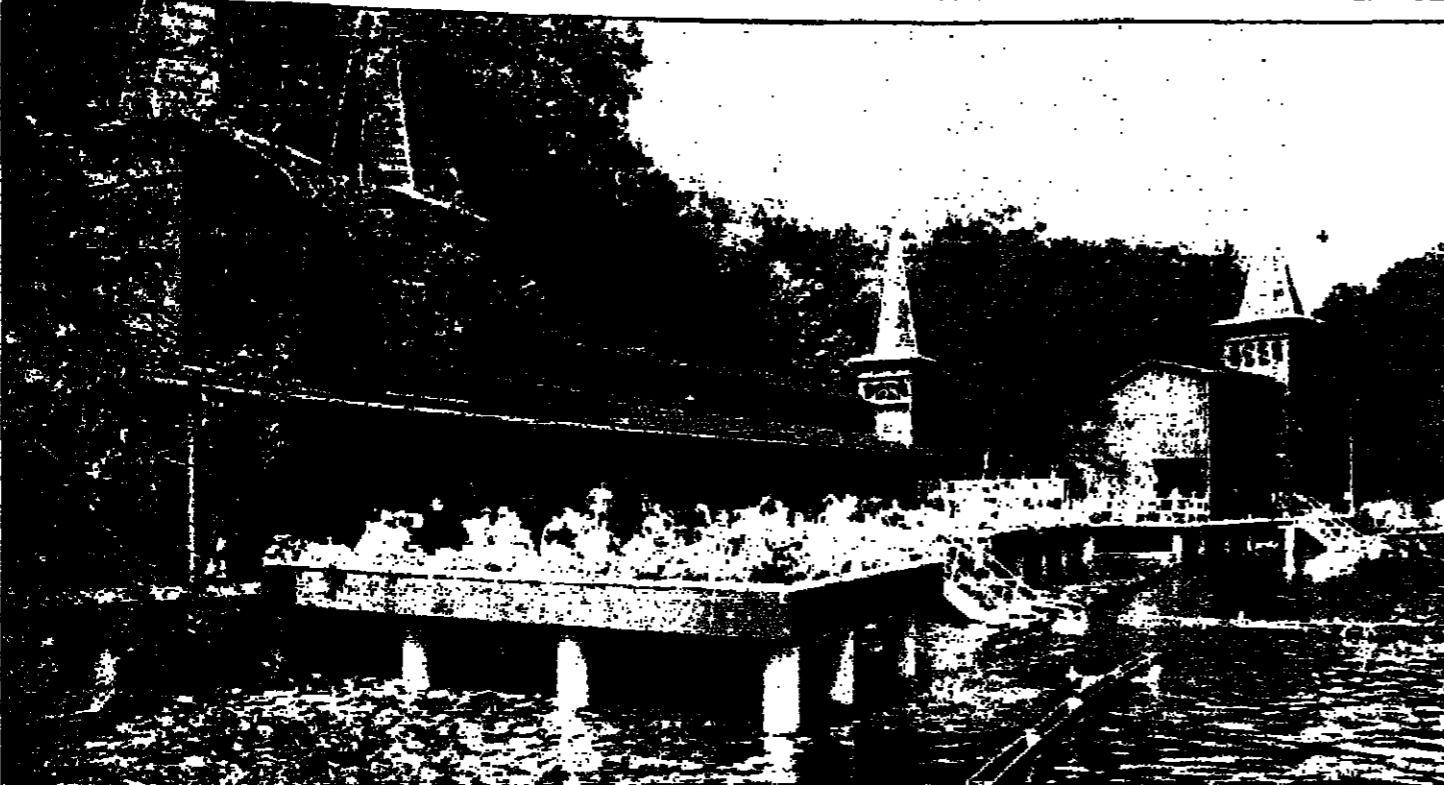
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Investment in Hungary

Foreign equity capital's growing role in economy

THE quiet and not-so-quiet revolutions in 1989 have radically changed the conditions in East-Central Europe. Investors are increasingly turning their attention towards the countries in the stage of transformation. In Hungary, the quiet changeover had started earlier and, in some respects — mainly in the field of economy — it has taken more marked outlines than in the neighbouring East European countries.

In building a market economy, the country is several steps ahead, which is due to the fact that for more than 20 years, since 1968, efforts have been made to reform the rigid economic management operating with central instructions.

The changeover — political and economic — has begun. In Hungary a multi-party democracy is in the making and a welfare market-economy is being erected.

In this process a two-tier banking system has been introduced with an expanding network of commercial banks. A Western-type "free" system has been implemented. For two years now

the personal income tax and the general turnover tax (VAT) is in operation; in the system of entrepreneurial profit tax each venture is taxed on the same basis.

One of the essential points of the market-building programme relates to the achievement of the full convertibility of the country's currency within a few years. This aim is supported by import liberalization, enabling any foreign and Hungarian entrepreneur to obtain free currencies through the National Bank of Hungary and thus effect imports without restriction. The revision of the legal statutes concerning the ventures is progressing at a great pace, while the state is gradually retreating from direct control of economy. The government's guidance and interference is being restricted to the fiscal and monetary policies. The Stock Exchange is going to be established soon, with full autonomy.

The urgent restructuring of the production and the improvement of competitiveness cannot be achieved without domestic and foreign private investments. In proportion to their original investment.

About 1,000 joint ventures are now operating in Hungary, with a foreign investment estimated at a billion dollars. Most of the ventures are, for the time being, small-scale firms with registered capitals between \$10,000 and 100,000. However, renowned investment corporations have made their appearance: at first — understandably — in the banking system.

This explains why, even so far, increasing benefits have been granted to the founders of joint ventures, to those investing active capital in Hungary. In the case of certain activities the new joint ventures enjoy complete tax exemption during several years, and even subsequently they will be entitled to sizeable tax allowances. The licensing of joint ventures has been simplified. Practically, those firms where the foreign stake does not exceed 50 per cent, no permit is required at all; the new venture has to be registered merely with the Registry Court. Foreign investors are entitled to repatriate the profit of their Hungarian ventures in foreign currencies — in proportion to their original investment.

Foreign capital is being assimilated at a rapid pace in the Hungarian heavy and light industries in hotels, in tourist trade and other services. It has started to appear in agriculture, mainly in food processing. All this evolution will be greatly assisted by the privatisation programme in the course of which a great deal of the means of production will be given into private hands.

Spa tourism in Hungary

Health restoration and recreation

Base

CONSIDERING thermal and mineral water resources, Hungary is a world leader. It is proved by geological prospecting that an actual hotwater sea is situated under the country and that high-temperature water can be obtained wherever borings are made on about 70 per cent of the country's territory. The reserves of thermal and hot water are sufficient for several centuries even in the case of a major-scale utilisation.

In Hungary currently some 500 springs supply high-temperature water, of which more than 60 produce rated thermal waters. Some 500 thousand cubic metres of hot water come to the surface daily, of which 50 thousand cubic metres in Budapest.

In addition to the thermal baths of Budapest — including the Gellert, Lukacs, Szchenyi, Kiraly, Rudas, and Rac Baths — the spas in the province attracting most domestic and foreign guests are those to be found at

Aeard, Balf, Buk, Debrecen, Gyula, Hajduszoboszlo, Harkany, Heviz, Igal, Mezokovesd-Zsorifurdo, Miskolc-Tapolca-Mosonmagyarovar, Parafurdo, Sarvar, and Zalakaros.

History

From ancient times to the present day, thermal waters have been used in Hungary. At Aquincum, in today's 3rd district of Budapest, baths were attached to the hospitals of several cloisters; the Turkish cult of bathing in the 16th and 17th centuries is witnessed in present-day Budapest by the Kiraly, Rudas and Rac baths. The benevolent effect of baths was discovered again in the 19th century: in 1848 a Hungarian book on balneology was published; in 1867 an act was passed on the criteria of thermal baths, and in 1886 a map of thermal baths was published. In 1934 Budapest was declared a spa city. And so it continues — last year an international body of thermal tour-

ism specialists was holding a meeting in Budapest.

In medical circles there is an increasing number of physicians applying natural therapeutic processes, including the use of thermal waters containing ions which are easily absorbed.

The thermal waters of Hungary have proved to be suitable mainly for the treatment of locomotor disorders, diseases of the digestive system, gynaecological complaints, with complex therapeutic processes — hydrotherapy, balneotherapy, electrotherapy and mechanotherapy — recommended for the individual. They can be used, moreover, for the restoration of the health of partially handicapped persons, the promotion of recovery from illness, the relaxation of nervous and physical overstraining, and active recreation.

Thermal hotels

Beyond the reasonable utilisation of the endowments of nature with the intention of helping ill people, thermal hotels are also

worth operating for the reason that the stay of guests is longer than average, the rate of utilisation is high, and not dependent on any season.

The Thermal Hotel Heviz (Western Hungary) has been operating since 1976, the Thermal Hotel Margitsziget (Budapest) since 1979, the Thermal Hotel Aqua (Heviz) since 1984, the Thermal Hotel Sarvar (Western Hungary) since 1985, and the Thermal Hotel Buk (Western Hungary) since 1986. In 1990, the Thermal Hotel Aquincum — both in the framework of joint ventures — will be opened in Budapest.

Besides their natural surroundings, fine architecture, good cuisine, therapeutic and entertainment facilities, these thermal hotels distinguish themselves by having on their staffs physicians and auxiliary health personnel with high qualifications, long practice, and a knowledge of foreign languages.

— Julia St. Nagy



Gellert Thermal Baths and Spa, Budapest



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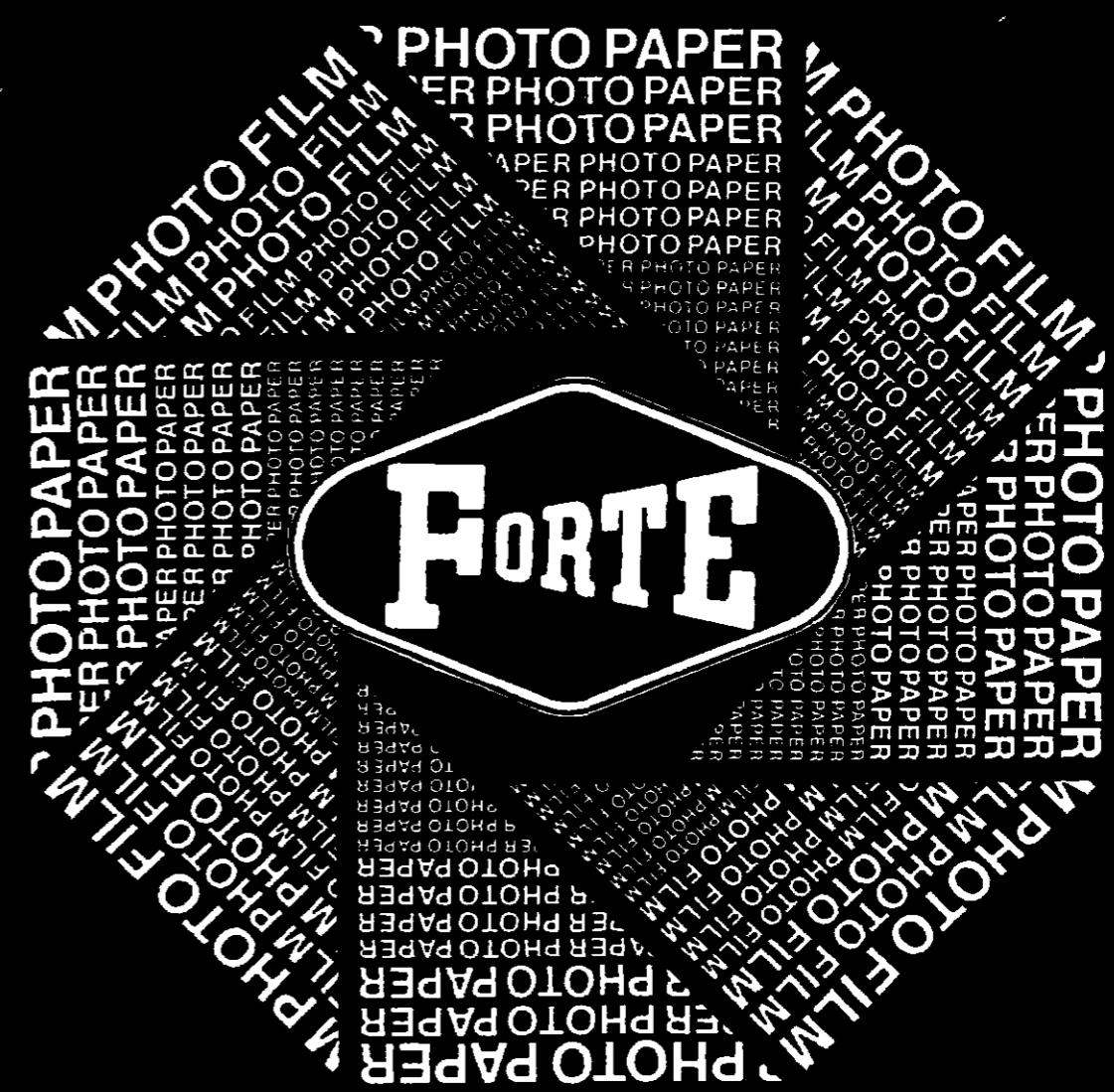
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In Kuwait for Hungarian Food Festival

Top: Mihaly Lakatos and his gypsy orchestra from Budapest's Duna Intercontinental Hotel. Lakatos and his group are now at Kuwait's International Hotel to participate in the Hungarian Food Festival. Gypsy music is a blend of Hungarian folk songs and gypsy melodies; the merry tunes are full of temperament. Right: Josef Foldecs, chef de cuisine, Duna Intercontinental Hotel, now at Kuwait's International Hotel for the Hungarian Food Festival.



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Hungarian tourism

Scene of historic events

THE Hungarian republic with a system of mixed ownership, an open market economy, moving towards a constitutional state, and the first to pull down the Iron Curtain, the scene of historic events, is drawing great numbers of foreign visitors not only for the above reasons but also for its rich artistic and cultural heritage and its hardworking, warm-hearted people. Last year a total of 24.92 million foreigners (+38.7 per cent) visited Hungary, to convince themselves personally of the truth of the reports of the world media and also of the Hungarian national tourist publicity.

Nearly half of our guests, 12.15 million (+44.6 per cent) came from different hard currency countries, and 12.77 million were from countries with which we use the rouble accounting system.

Tourism's 'foreign affairs'

The Republic of Hungary has more than 30 tourism agreements with different countries all over the world, including that with the USA and the Republic of Korea, both signed last year.

Citizens of Hungary on one hand, and those of Austria, Finland, Sweden, Italy, Germany and Malta, on the other hand, enjoy all the advantages of visa-free travel when visiting each other's country.

One of WTO's most faithful allies Hungarian Tourist Board (HTB) joined the European Travel Commission as its 24th member — on Jan 1, 1990.

HTB has seven offices abroad — two of them in Frankfurt.

Budapest stock exchange to be reopened very soon will add to the chances of private investors.

West Germany and Vienna, Austria) serving as official Hungarian tourism representations, the other five run jointly by HTB and Ibusz, — and participates in 32 international travel fairs, such as ITB — Berlin, World Travel Market — London, BIT — Milan, Feria Copenhagen, Tour Gothenburg, Brussels Travel Fair, Jata — Tokyo, sponsoring and managing Hungarian firms on the world tourism market.

Programmes, projects, ideas for 1990-95

1990 — the European Year of Tourism sponsored by the European Economic Community, the year of King Matthias commemorating the 500th anniversary of the death of Hungarian King Matthias Corvin (1443-1490), great European ruler of the period of humanism and renaissance.

The great success of the 1988 Asta (American Society of Travel Agents) World Congress hosted by the Hungarian capital helped persuade Abta (Association of British Travel Agents) officials to hold their 1990 convention in Budapest 4-8 November.

Late summer, early autumn thousands of Formula 1 and motorcycle fans are expected to come to Hungaroring (the Hungarian Formula 1 race-track near Budapest) to attend the Hungarian Grand Prix Formula 1 — 12-13 August) and Motorcycle World Championship (September) races.

And we all hope they'll be back to Budapest for the opening ceremony of the Budapest-Vienna World Expo '95 entitled "Bridges to the Future" — the first ever world exhibition organized by two countries, Austria and Hungary. Hungarian preparations are co-ordinated by a governmental committee of experts.

World Expo '95 projects are as follows:

- Building of 12,000 new luxury hotel rooms in Budapest and of 10 three- and four-star hotels with a total of 4,500 beds in other regions of the country.



Vaci Street, a pedestrian zone in Budapest.

to attend this conference as well as the two other addresses on Hungarian tourism industry and on the country's recreation tourism preceding Ms Sz. Nagy's speech in the programme of the Hungarian Tourism Day (Kuwait International Hotel's Terrace Hall, May 8, 1990, 10.00 am).

In case you "survive" all those talks, you'll be shown a "recreation" film on Hungary and offered a "curing" cocktail as a "reward."

So see you in Kuwait International Hotel on May 8, at 10.00 am.

Hungarian Tourist Board

Clocks are set forward one hour in late March and set back one hour in late September.

Climate: Continental with Mediterranean and Atlantic influence

Geography: Hungary occupies the low-lying areas of the Carpathian basin.

Two-thirds of her territory consist of plains.

Highest peak: Kekes (Matra mountain — 1,014 m)

Longest rivers: Danube, Tisza

Largest lakes: Lake Balaton, Lake Ferto, Lake Velence.

II. Budapest (the capital). Sopron, Pecs, Szeged, Debrecen

Free literature

HUNGARY — tourist information (general information on Hungary, frontier formalities, transportation, accommodations, restaurants, cultural events, museums, sports, spas, practical advice, useful addresses).

Also available are maps and brochures on Hungary, her regions, cities as well as on spas, castle hotels, hotels and camping, sports, hobbies, museums, music life; Hungarian tourism statistics.

— Hungarian Travel Magazine, Hungarian Tourist Board quarterly published in English and German especially for those involved in the tourism industry all over the world.

For literatures and further information please contact:

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Turkish premier meets Saddam

BAGHDAD, May 6. (AP): Turkish Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut held talks with Iraqi leaders today amid differences over Baghdad's demand for a guaranteed share of Euphrates river water and Ankara's desire for a hot-pursuit accord to combat Kurdish rebels.

Turkish embassy officials said Akbulut, who arrived in Baghdad yesterday for a three-day visit, met with President Saddam Hussein and discussed "bilateral relations and issues of mutual concern."

The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Akbulut delivered a message from Turkish President Turgut Ozal to Saddam.

They declined to disclose the contents of the message.

But sources close to the Turkish delegation said Ozal explained why Turkey handed over to Britain metal tubes bound for Iraq that were seized on a truck at the Bulgarian border last week.

It was the third seizure of British-made metal tubes destined for Iraq in recent days. The others occurred in Britain and Greece.

The sources reported that Ozal said in his message that he hoped Iraq would understand Turkey's position in sending back the pipes because of the British allegations.

Readiness

The message also expressed Turkey's readiness to boost its relations with Iraq and reiterated Ankara's efforts to settle a dispute over water from the Euphrates river, the sources said.

Iraqi officials were not available for comment.

Relations between Iraq and Turkey, its northern neighbour, soured in January when the Turks cut off much of the Euphrates flow for a month to fill the reservoir of the huge Ataturk Dam in southeastern Anatolia province.

The 1,460-mile (2,300-kilometre) Euphrates originates in eastern Turkey. It flows through Syria and then Iraq before joining the Tigris River, which also originates in Turkey to form the Shatt Al-Arab waterway that runs into the Gulf.

Sources close to the talks, speaking on condition of anonymity, reported today that disagreements have emerged on the Euphrates issue and border security.

The Iraqis are pressing for an agreement that will fix low rates for all the states along the Euphrates and want another bilateral treaty on sharing water from the Tigris.

Expired

The Turks have balked at that. But they want to renew a 1984 border security agreement which expired last year to give them the right of hot pursuit against Kurdish insurgents waging a savage rebel war in southeastern Turkey.

The Iraqis are also fighting Kurdish separatists in the mountainous northern border region.

Sources close to the talks said today the Iraqis have made it clear to the Turks that they are reluctant to renew the security accord.

No US ties: Iran

Setback to Rafsanjani

NICOSIA, May 6. (AP): The radical speaker of Iran's Parliament today denounced the United States as "the enemy of Islam ... hated by our people" and ruled out a resumption of diplomatic relations.

The official Islamic Republic News Agency, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Mehdi Karroubi as declaring in the 27-seat Majlis, or Parliament: "No one can establish relations with the Americans."

As members of the radical-dominated Majlis declared "death to America," Karroubi declared: "As long as America is plotting against the Islamic world and the Islamic Republic of Iran, the issue of negotiations between Iran and the US will never be discussed."

Karroubi's uncompromising remarks echoed anti-US statements by other Iranian leaders, including President Hashemi Rafsanjani and spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in recent days.

'Jihad' broken

CAIRO, May 6. (AP): Authorities have arrested 28 members of the organisation convicted in assassinating president Anwar Sadat for plotting terrorist attacks on police stations, Egypt's top security official said.

This brings to 44 the number of Jihad members arrested in the past two days. A police source who asked not to be named said 16 Jihad members were arrested yesterday in Beni Suef, 75 miles (121 km) south of Cairo as part of a crackdown on Muslim militants.

Interior Minister Abdel-Halim Moussa said the Jihad organisation plotted the attacks in Cairo and Giza, its adjacent province to the north to revenge recent crackdown on its members in southern Egypt.

Moussa, in charge of Egypt's internal security, made the statement in an interview in the state-owned newspaper.

Release hopes fade

No bargain on hostages

NICOSIA, May 6. (Reuter): US President George Bush's refusal to bargain after the release of two US hostages has left Iran's moderate leaders in a rage and snuffed out hopes for an early homecoming for 15 other Western captives in Lebanon.

Americans Robert Polhill and Frank Reed, released in the past two weeks, owe their freedom largely to Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani who, despite political risks at home, had resolved to end the protracted hostage crisis.

Iran and its ally Hezbollah — believed to be behind hostage-taking although it denies the charge — say the six remaining American hostages could walk free if Washington pressed Israel to free hundreds of Arab prisoners.

Bush, who has said the United States would not make deals with hostage-takers, has thanked Iran for its role in freeing Polhill and Reed but said Washington would not move towards resuming relations with Tehran until all six were released.

He said he would not mind if Israel freed Arab prisoners.

But Bush stopped short of trying to push Washington's closest ally in the Middle East into the politically painful position of having to swap the Arab prisoners for Western captives alone.

Iran has said any such exchange would have to include three Israeli servicemen held by Hezbollah.

Bush's position has incensed Rafsanjani, who had gambled on quick US concessions to silence radical opponents waiting in the wings to exploit any blunder by the Iranian president.

Rafsanjani's vulnerability became apparent when hardline clerics opposed to any move towards reuniting ties with the US expressed their outrage last week when Vice-President Aissatollah Mohajerian called for direct talks with Washington to settle bilateral problems.

Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei defused the tensions by saying there would be no rapprochement with Washington and rebuking the radicals,

saying the vice-president had every right to put for-

PLO renews bid to join WHO

GENEVA, May 6. (Reuter): The Palestine Liberation Organisation is to make a new bid to join the World Health Organisation (WHO) with the United States threatening to cut off funds if the PLO is admitted.

The move is likely to overshadow discussion of AIDS and other medical issues when the 167-member world health body holds its annual meeting starting tomorrow.

The PLO failed last year in a first

attempt to win promotion from observer to full member status and member states promised to look at its application again this year.

But the United States, which provides over a quarter of the WHO's annual budget, has made it clear it will cut off financial contributions if the PLO's bid is successful.

The US mission in Geneva circulated a note reminding journalists and diplomats

that Washington was required by law to withhold funding to any United Nations agency "that enhances the status of the PLO, such as accepting it as a full member."

The PLO membership issue is among 33 items on the agenda of the two-week review of the world's health problems by health ministers.

The meeting will hear progress reports on the spread of AIDS, nutritional research,

disposal of hazardous waste and health assistance to refugees.

The development of a health system in newly-independent Namibia, the WHO's 167th member, is also on the agenda.

WHO Director-General Hiroshi Nakajima of Japan has tried to persuade the PLO to give up its bid for full membership on the grounds that a US financial cutoff would harm the agency's health efforts worldwide.

The United States puts up the bulk of the money that the WHO spends in efforts to stem the spread of the deadly disease AIDS.

Nakajima told reporters recently he had held informal contacts with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and his representative in Geneva, Nabil Ramali.

"The Palestinians are fully aware of the financial implications," he said.

Problematic US-Israel tension increasing

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 6. (Reuter): The increasing tension in relations with Washington has deepened Israel's fear it may be losing the US support that has underwritten its economic and military strength.

"We haven't seen evidence any of this money is vulnerable," said a senior diplomat in Tel Aviv. "But in two or three years, who knows?"

Concern emerged before the fall of the Israeli government in March and has grown since. Caretaker Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's drift to the right is alienating both US officials and American Jews vital for securing US aid.

That aid flows at a level undreamt of by any other country — more than \$650 annually per Israeli. American taxpayers pick up the bill for a third of Israel's military budget.

Warnings

"There is a deterioration of support for Israel," US Senator Robert Dole said in a series of warnings delivered during his visit last month to Israel.

By his estimate Israel is getting closer to \$4 billion than the three billion usually cited — \$1.8 billion in military grants and \$1.2 billion for the civilian budget.

Israeli media were quick to note that other American politicians disagreed with Dole, the Republican Party leader in the Senate, but officials fear his views may reflect a fundamental shift in the once unquestioning US support.

"What he was saying was quite unprecedented," said a senior Western diplomat in Jerusalem, who shared the widespread perception that Dole was speaking indirectly for the Bush administration.

US-Israeli friction has existed almost since President George Bush and his Secretary of State James Baker took office two years ago and decided to tackle the Middle East conflict.

Baker publicly pressed Shamir to seek peace with the Palestinians who have been in revolt against Israeli rule since December 1988. Shamir dug in his heels and refused in March to accept a US plan for Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

Although both Israeli and Americans say the current aid level is secure, each divergence of Israeli and US interests increases doubts.

Dole wants to cut aid to major recipients five per cent, and redirect it to emerging democracies. Even if he fails, the buying power of the aid is reduced each year by inflation.

Debate on aid falls into two categories — military, which both sides expect will remain strong, and economic, which could face increasing pressure.

Important

Close military ties established during the eight years of Ronald Reagan's presidency are likely to continue, especially as US dependence on imported oil continues to rise.

"If the strategic relationship is important to the United States, to damage it is to shoot yourself in the foot," said Dore Gold, an expert on US-Israeli relations at the Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies.

Port calls by US ships to Haifa rose steadily through the 1980s and the United States is considering pre-positioning military equipment in Israel for forces sent to the region.

"I see the strategic relationship as very strong," said Gold. He is much less optimistic about other aid. "The political one is very problematic."

Israelis were angered by a recent article in the American magazine Newsweek that portrayed their rich living a life of Jaccuzzis, expensive cars and foreign travel. Israel's image in America is changing.

Despite slow growth and high inflation, Israelis are not suffering from conditions normally associated with foreign aid. Less aid would mean a lower standard of living, not poverty.

Israel's fears come as it is seeking extra money to settle the flood of Soviet immigrants, who reached more than 10,000 in April.

Israel wants the United States to guarantee loans of \$400 million to house the immigrants but Washington wants proof the money will not be used to settle Soviet Jews on occupied Arab land.

While Washington waits for a new government to provide the assurance, Shamir's interim administration has embarked on more Jewish settlement of the occupied territories.

The government crisis was triggered by Shamir's refusal to accept the US proposal for Israeli-Palestinian talks. He has not moderated his views and is positioned to remain as prime minister in charge of a right-wing government.

Each shift to the right will provide ammunition to those in Washington who believe Israel's priorities are not the same as the US goal of a calm Middle East.

New restriction

Rules on firing

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 6. (Reuter): Israel's Navy chief has issued new rules on firing at sea after Jordan complained that an Israeli gunboat in the Red Sea opened fire while King Hussein sailed past in his yacht.

Quoting senior naval sources, Israel's Haaretz newspaper reported on Sunday that Rear Admiral Micha Ram ordered naval patrols in the Gulf of Aqaba not to carry out firing exercises when other craft were nearby.

A senior Jordanian official yesterday called the April 28 shooting incident "an act of provocation" and the United States said it was deeply concerned by it.

Jordanian and Israeli officials both said the Israeli boat fired away from the royal yacht.

Haaretz said Amman and Washington were upset because Israel promised there would be no recurrence after a similar incident last October.

Chinese expert offers 5-point solution to Arab-Israeli conflict

WASHINGTON, May 6. (Kuna): A Chinese expert on the Arab world says that a five-point Chinese proposal for the solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict remains one of the best approaches to this regional conflict.

The Chinese expert, Xiaoxing Han, a member of the China's Institute of West Asian and African Studies and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, made his comment in a study presented to the 15th annual symposium of the Centre for Contemporary Arab Studies at Georgetown University that ended here yesterday.

Washington has said these were pre-planned affairs which had nothing to do with the hostilities and such explanations do not look convincing in Tehran.

"These American acts can only give more ammunition to the radical camp to blast Rafsanjani," said an Iranian journalist in Tehran.

Hostage-taking has dented Iran's image and acted as a major hurdle in its quest to mend its relations with Western nations.

Iran is in dire need of Western help to rebuild its economy and military after eight years of war with Iraq that was halted by a UN-sponsored ceasefire in August 1988.

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Christians warned; Shiites fight on

SIDON, May 6. (Agencies): Rival Shiite Muslim forces fought with mortars and machineguns today in south Lebanon, killing one person, security sources said.

They said militants of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah and militiamen of the Syrian-backed Amal fought for two hours in the Iqlim Al Tufah area, 40 km (25 miles) south of Beirut.

Meanwhile, the Christian Maronite patriarch today warned against preparations by rival Christian forces to resume fighting as Syrian troops disengaged from Muslim militias in the southern suburb of the capital.

Beirut radio quoted Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir as saying in his weekly sermon: "We were told that they (the foe forces) were erecting new positions and fortifications."

Sfeir appealed on forces of Christian military leader Gen. Michel Aoun and militia leader Samir Geagea to refrain from engaging in a new battle, saying what would be the cause of new fighting.

"The people have suffered enough from the lack of water, food and electricity."

The patriarch's warning came as living conditions for more than 500,000 Christians became intolerable, suffering from the lack of electric power, drinking water and fresh food.

A militia sniper shot and wounded an officer loyal to Aoun during sporadic skirmishes among shell-pocked apartment buildings in East Beirut, police said.

The regular troops and the militiamen engaged in overnight limited fighting using rocket-propelled grenades and automatic arms, police said.

The warning by the ranking cleric coincided with media reports that Aoun intended to launch a new large-scale offensive to tighten the noose around Geagea's main stronghold in the waterfront area of Karantina in East Beirut. But Aoun's radio station today quoted the general as denying these reports.

In southern Beirut, still-helmeted Syrian troops and officers staged patrols on streets between manned by rival Shiite gunmen of the Hezbollah and the Amal movement, witnesses said.

Syrian officers supervised the removal of some dirt fortifications by bulldozers, while some Syrian soldiers took new positions between the rivals, the witnesses said.

Muslim security sources said the partial Syrian measure was intended to defuse mounting tension between Amal and Hezbollah, and curb recurring daily violence in the mainly Shiite area.

Hezbollah sources said Syrian officers sponsored an agreement earlier this week stipulating that both parties should halt a wave of kidnapping and counter kidnapping and stop erecting fortifications.

Iran raps Post report

NICOSIA, May 6. (AP): The official Islamic Republic News Agency said yesterday that a report that it was partially responsible for the death of hundreds of villagers in the border village of Halabja from chemical weapons was "preposterous."

The news agency said the reversal of the position that Iraq was solely responsible for the attack was provoked by US depiction over Iran's refusal to consider renewing diplomatic ties severed since 1979.

"The US on being spurned by Iranian officials regarding its deceptive overture of ties, has started revealing its true colours," Iran said.

Iraq, monitored in Nicosia, accused the Washington Post newspaper of "stooping to such low levels of yellow journalism" in printing the report.

The Post report said a US Defence Department study had concluded that Iran also used chemical weapons in the battle for the Kurdish city in the mountainous northern reaches of the Iran-Iraq border. The newspaper said the findings called into question the universal condemnation of Iraq for sole responsibility for the deaths.

Former premier made Afghan VP

ISLAMABAD, May 6. (Reuters): Afghan President Najibullah named former prime minister Sultan Ali Kishmand today as first Vice-President of his Soviet-backed government, Kabul Radio reported.

The appointment must be approved by Parliament, said the broadcast, monitored in the Pakistani capital Islamabad.

The opposition Democratic Struggle Party (DSP), running on an anti-corruption platform, was widely given a good chance of ousting the National Unity Party (NUP), which has ruled breakaway north Cyprus for 14 years.

Asked if defeat for the NUP, which he headed until recently, would change his approach to UN-

affairs, Denktash said: "I will do my best to serve the people."

World News Roundup

Middle East

Egyptian court releases funds: An Egyptian court released a Lebanese millionaire's assets of nearly \$19 million on Saturday six years after they were frozen in a major bank scandal.

The court of ethics, a special tribunal set up in the 1970s to investigate economic corruption, released 50 million Egyptian pounds (\$18.8 million) in cash and other assets owned by Ali Abdullah Jammal. (Reuters)

Rockets kill 1 in Kabul: Five rockets slammed into the Afghan capital of Kabul on Saturday, killing one person and wounding another three, Radio Kabul reported.

The radio broadcast monitored in Islamabad blamed the attack on "Pakistan-based extremists," presumably referring to US-backed rebel fighters.

No one has claimed responsibility for the attack. (AP) ***

2 women killed in Turkey: Separatist Kurds killed two women and wounded a third when they attacked a house in Derik town in the southeastern province of Mardin, the semi-official Anatolian News Agency said on Sunday.

It said the rebels of the Marxist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) raked the house with automatic weapons on Saturday night.

Security sources said the victims were believed to be family members of a PKK rebel who turned informant after being captured by security forces. (Reuters) ***

Greek ferry sinks: A small Greek passenger ferry sank after colliding with a Liberian-registered container ship at the Cypriot port of Limassol, Lloyds shipping intelligence said on Sunday. No injuries were reported.

Lloyd's said the Greek vessel, Denise, was manoeuvring to leave the port on Saturday when it struck the bulbous bow of the 9,715 tonne motor container vessel Pioneer, owned by a Bulgarian company. (Reuters) ***

ACC to boost: Health ministers of the Arab Co-operation Council will meet in Amman on June 18 to discuss ways of establishing Arab joint pharmaceuticals processing company to satisfy the requirements of the four member states.

Jordanian Minister of Health Mohammed Al Zabin said in an interview with Jordanian Al Rai today that the health ministers will discuss preparations to boost health co-operation between their countries in addition to laying a special plan for boosting health affairs among them. (Kuna) ***

Rare whale shark freed: A team of divers and a member of the Nature Preserve Society in the town of Eilat along the Gulf of Aqaba rescued a giant whale shark that became entangled Saturday in fishing nets, Israel Army radio reported.

"We had to get him out of the net, but you have to remember that this was an 8-metre (26-foot) shark, so it wasn't exactly like taking a fly out of a net," said Roni Zilber, a member of the Nature Preserve Society who helped cut the shark free.

"Since this shark is an endangered species, we are very interested that it continue to swim in the Gulf of Aqaba," he said on army radio, adding it was caught by mistake. (AP) ***

Algeria arrests glue-sniffers: Algerian police have arrested two teenage glue-sniffers for desecrating tombs of rebels killed during the war of independence against France, the Algerian news agency APS said on Saturday.

The youths, aged 14 to 17, admitted to having destroyed 26 plaques on martyrs' tombs in the eastern province of Oum Al Bouaghi. Police said they had been sniffing glue at the time.

A wave of such attacks in eastern and southern Algeria has triggered a public outcry and veterans groups plan nation-wide protest marches next Friday. (Reuters) ***

Swiss groups condemn: Some 300 protesters gathered in the Swiss capital on Saturday to condemn the way Turkish police broke up May Day workers' demonstrations.

Swiss police said the protest, sponsored by a coalition of Swiss and Turkish groups, passed off without incident. (Reuters) ***

Europe

Italians spend night in open: Many Italian families opted for a night in the open rather than risk being buried in their houses as more shocks rumble through the earthquake-prone Sicilia region early yesterday.

Police said an elderly man and woman died of heart attacks and up to 30 people were injured

Pimen buried

Clutching hundreds of slender white candles, singing ancient hymns, and repeatedly bowing and crossing themselves, hundreds of Russian Orthodox believers crowded into a vaulted cathedral on Sunday for the funeral of the church patriarch.

Pimen, head of the Russian Orthodox church and patriarch of Moscow and all Russia, died on Thursday of heart failure after a long illness.

Tass reported. Pimen was later buried.



Pavarotti waves

Italian opera singer Luciano Pavarotti waves to reporters as he goes for a walkabout on Moscow's Red Square on Saturday. Pavarotti is in Moscow to give charity concerts for America. (Reuters wirephoto)

Cigarette

US party in deaths

WASHINGTON, May 6. (Kuna): Agreements efforts by American tobacco companies to increase the market for their own cigarettes abroad are contributing to an increase in smoking in many countries around the world that will cause millions of tobacco-related deaths, American health experts have charged.

Smoking causes an estimated 3 million deaths worldwide each year and will become the leading cause of death in Third World countries during the next decade, according to William Forege, the former director of the centres for disease control, who submitted a new study to Congress yesterday.

Smoking is declining at a rate of one per cent a year in the developed countries while it is increasing 2 per cent per year in developing countries.

"The US effect on world health may be a net negative because of tobacco," Forege said in his study.

On Saturday when as many as 30 tremors measuring up to seven on the 12-point Mercalli scale rocked southern Italy.

They said that 10 villages were hit by Saturday's earthquake near its epicentre northeast of Potenza, many people had camped out around fires rather than risk being caught in their homes by another major quake. (Reuters) ***

IRA shoots British soldier: The Irish Republican Army claimed responsibility yesterday for the fatal shooting of a British soldier in an ambush in Northern Ireland.

The soldier, who was not immediately identified, died from his wounds, police said.

Police said the soldier was hit by machine-gun fire Saturday while on foot patrol near Culham village in South Armagh, two miles (3 km) from the Irish republic border. (AP)

Happy birthday, Karl: It's been a bad year for communists but there were no tears Saturday as the diminished ranks of the socialist fraternity paid respects to Karl Marx, commemorating his 172 birthday.

Delegations from China, Mongolia and East Germany made a pilgrimage to the London cemetery where the Father of Communism is buried, bringing flowers and their versions of the kinder, gentler communist of the 1990s.

"It (Marx) is not dead. Mis-interpretation of Marx is dead," said Joachim Mitdank, the East German ambassador. "We have more than ever before to make correct interpretation."

"I wouldn't say a lot of countries are rejecting it," said Mongolian ambassador Ishetuugyn Ochibald. "A lot of countries were applying it in the wrong way."

The delegations took turns placing flowers at the base of the massive bust of Marx, with its inscription: "Workers of all lands unite."

The East Germans brought red carnations, the symbol of the German Communist Party, wrapped in the colours of the flag of the German Democratic Republic.

The diplomats approached the towering stone slab in Highgate cemetery and stood in silence, heads bowed. When all had finished, they joined for a group photograph in front of the grave. (UPI) ***

Soviet nuclear tests harm people: Physicians from Soviet Kazakhstan said Saturday they believed as many as 100,000 people are suffering from radioactivity released by nuclear weapons tests in their republic.

D Dr Saim Balmukan, a professor at the Kazakh Cancer and Radiology Institute at the capital Alma-Ata, told a news conference that the main testing area, the Semey region of the southern republic, has higher than normal rates of still births, congenital defects, cancer, cataracts and vascular problems.

Balmukan and two other Kazakh cancer specialists were in Istanbul to attend a medical conference and seek international support for the Nevada-Semey Group, a new organisation that opposes nuclear testing.

The group is named after the locations in the United States and the Soviet Union where nuclear tests have been performed for more than four decades.

Tass reported. Pimen was later buried.

Balmukan said Soviet researchers have found that from 1971 to 1985, the average life expectancy of Semey residents declined by three years. (AP) ***

French seize Spanish trawler: Navy commandos seized a fleeing Spanish trawler and brought it to port yesterday so its crew could be prosecuted for fishing illegally in French waters, authorities said.

Sea patrol aircraft, a navy corvette and a tugboat were used to intercept the "Costa de Irlanda" in the gulf of Gascoigne, about 45 miles (72 km) from the Atlantic coast, Maritime Authorities said in a communiqué.

The boat, with about 12 people on board, was spotted Saturday evening. It arrived early yesterday at the port of La Rochelle.

In 1984, a French gunboat fired on two Spanish trawlers fishing illegally in the gulf. Eight Spanish crewmen were injured, and the captains of the two boats were fined the equivalent of \$15,000 each. (AP) ***

Rioter release criticised: Conservative politicians and prison officials Saturday criticised the release of a prisoner who took part in the 25-day siege at Strangeways prison.

Darren Jones, 17, who was serving trial on drunk driving and automobile theft charges when the April Fool's day prison riot erupted at the Manchester prison, 200 miles (320 km) northwest of London, was freed Thursday. A British judge sentenced him to eight months on the charges, but released him because he had served long enough.

Jones, the youngest of six inmates who held out until the final day of the siege, was released eight days after he was captured while sleeping by prison officers who had entered the prison.

"Jones should be arrested, charged and held in custody," Conservative Member of Parliament Anthony Beaumont-Dark said in an interview with the Times of London. "It's sheer nonsense to release him onto the streets."

Boat people stop in Jakarta: A mysterious group of 51 Cambodian boat people has embarked for Australia following an unexpected visit to a remote national park in Indonesia.

The 55-foot (16.7-metre) motorised vessel, well-stocked with food, spare parts and shopping bags from a Jakarta department store, landed April 30 on the beach at Ujungkulon National Park, where two groups initially mistook the refugees, mostly teenagers, for picnickers, the Jakarta daily, Kompas, reported.

But they spoke a strange language, so the guards investigated, communicating through a 15-year-old in the group who could speak a little English.

The translator said the group sailed for nine days from Cambodia to Indonesia. He did not explain how they acquired the items with telltale markings from Jakarta, 248 miles (400 km) from the national park.

Frightened by the strangers, the guards arranged for them to be towed to sea so they could set off for Australia, their final destination, the newspaper said.

Witnesses told Kompas the passengers, mostly teenagers, met Indonesian fishermen and paid for fish with Indonesian currency and also flashed some US dollars.

The women wore expensive clothes and impressive gold jewellery and one passenger wore a hat from the Ragunan zoo in Jakarta, according to the two security guards at the park.

There were 24 males and 27 females on board, including four baby girls. Most appeared healthy and rested. (UPI) ***

Africa

Liberian court convicts: A Liberian court found the wife of former defence minister Gray Allison guilty of helping him murder a policeman to obtain blood and human parts for a magic potion, state radio said on Saturday.

Angeline Wattie Allison and two men were convicted by a 12-member jury of killing patrolman Melvin Pyne in March 1989.

General Allison, once president Samuel Doe's right-hand man, was sentenced to death last August for the same crime. He is still in prison.

The prosecution said Allison wanted to make a "juju" magic potion from human parts to enable him to topple Doe. Belief in magic is common in this West African state and ritual killings are often reported in newspapers. (Reuters)

Denktash talks tough on unity as Turkish-Cypriots vote in local polls

Political analysts said the party stood a good chance of gaining a majority in the 50-seat national assembly. The result was expected by early tomorrow.

The leftist Republican Turkish Party (RTP) has teamed up with the Social-Democratic Communal Liberation Party and the Re-Birth Party, representing thousands of settlers from the Turkish mainland, to form the DSP.

The coalition has not clarified its views on unification, but has said it wanted a resumption of talks with Cypriot President George Vassiliou that broke

Student killed in WB clashes

Arabs stage general strike

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 6. (AP): Israeli soldiers shot and killed a Palestinian high school student and wounded at least four others during clashes today in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, hospital officials and Arab reports said.

Arabs in the occupied lands, meanwhile, observed a general strike in solidarity with Palestinians being held prisoners in Israeli jails.

According to military figures from May 1, 1986, Palestinians are currently being detained, of which nearly a thousand are being held without trial.

In the town of Rafah in the Gaza Strip, an army patrol came under hail of stones and opened fire at a group of Palestinian high schoolers killing one of them. Arab reporters and hospital officials said.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Kuwait to step up energy ties with Hungary

Joint ventures planned in oil sector

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

KUWAIT is seeking to set up joint ventures in the oil sector with Hungary and use the Eastern European country as a springboard for penetrating the markets of eastern and southern Europe, according to Dr Tibor Toth of the Hungarian Ministry of Trade.

Initially Kuwait would focus on investing in refining and lube and fuel oil production with a view to eventually running a network of service stations to sell its Q8 products, Toth told the Arab Times.

Kuwait has made it clear to the Hungarians that although it normally seeks a 100 per cent control over its overseas oil investments it was willing to make an exception in the case of Hungary.

"During their talks in Budapest last March the Kuwaiti delegation, led by Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa said they would even consent to a minority share," Toth, who heads the GCC department in the Trade Ministry, said.

Toth is in Kuwait with a Hungarian trade delegation, led by Minister of State Zoltan Gombocz, who primarily seeks to attract capital investments to help revive and restructure Hungary's ailing economy.

Toth said that Kuwaitis were proceeding cautiously in their investment plans but the negotia-



Minister of State Zoltan Gombocz addresses the press conference.

tions on joint ventures were also slowed down by the impending leadership changes in Hungary following the elections last March.

Hungary, which plans to restructure its oil sector, will decide on the precise course of action only after its new coalition government is installed at the end of this month, Toth said.

Gombocz said Hungary, under pressure to repay its \$20 billion external debt and modernise its industry, is forced to seek new markets for its products and to tap their investment potential.

Its traditional Eastern European trading partners, their economies in tatters after political changes that imply a switch from centrally planned to market-oriented economies, no longer provide a ready market for Hun-

garian goods. "Predicting a demise of Comecon, a 40-year-old organisation set up to facilitate trade among the Eastern bloc countries, Gombocz said Hungary had opened its economy to foreign investment while seeking to maintain friendly ties with its Comecon partners."

Underscoring areas that need an injection of foreign capital he cited industry, road and telecommunications networks, machinery and electronics. During its week-long promotion the delegates will discuss investment opportunities in Hungary at a conference on the country's economic status and strategies that begins today.

We have yet to transform our oil sector and pinpoint areas in

Merger will broaden prospects

Oil exploration likely to surge

SANA, May 6 (Reuter): Oil exploration is likely to surge in a United Yemen due to be created this month, mostly in the south whose full potential was left largely untapped under socialist rule.

This merger of North and South Yemen is not only taking place because of historical links — it will broaden prospects for oil exploration in a wider area," North Yemen Oil Minister Ahmed Ali Al Muhanzi told Reuters in an interview.

"We hope that after unification, intensified exploration will take place in the southern part of the country ... there is greater potential for crude in South Yemen," he added.

Oil is already an important source of income for North Yemen, whose conservative rulers have welcomed exploration by foreign companies. Sanaa became an oil exporter in December 1987, with daily pumps 180,000 barrels per day (bpd).

But the South, which only last year began to liberalise its Soviet-style economy and political institutions after years of isolation following independence from Britain in 1967, pumps only about 15,000 bpd.

The South Yemen oil industry had until recently been almost exclusively dependent on Soviet expertise.

Some industry analysts estimate South Yemen's reserves at up to 3.75 billion barrels, though there is little data and the potential is difficult to assess.

North Yemen has recoverable reserves of some 500 million barrels from its total reserves of one billion barrels, and industry analysts say the country has been almost fully explored.

Muhani said the North's output would rise by 25,000 bpd by autumn when the Assad Al Kamil

field in the Marib-Jawf Basin comes on stream. Next year the field's output would rise by a further 20,000 bpd.

More oil and gas would be found in both states, he added. One of the most promising areas was a 2,100 square km (810 square mile) border region between Marib in the north and Shabwa in the south.

In March the New Yemen Company for Investment in Oil and Mineral Resources, run by both countries, licensed a foreign consortium to explore the area.

The firms — Hunt and Exxon of the US, the Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Corporation, France's CEP-Total and Soviet firms Machinimport and Zarubezhgeologiya — will drill seven exploratory wells and carry out seismic surveys over five years, Muhani said.

The joint development of this field in a previously disputed border region was a major impetus for unity between the two Yemens.

The petroleum ministries of the two countries will merge after political unification, which is to be decided by elections. Sanaa and Aden agreed in November to unite within a year but were widely expected to complete the process by the end of this month.

Muhani said the United Yemen would spend \$200 million to install new hydrocrackers, units and storage facilities at Aden's 36-year-old refinery.

Industry sources said the refinery was now operating at 30 per cent of its annual capacity of 160,000 barrels.

Eventually the new Yemen will have a new

refinery to cater to its needs, but for the time being we will continue to stretch the old ones," the minister said.

North Yemen's Marib refinery produces 10,500 bpd of mainly diesel, fuel oil and gas oil — about a third of the country's needs. Most of the rest is imported from Saudi Arabia and Aden.

Industry sources said a 190 km (115 mile) pipeline from Shabwa to Bir Ali export terminal on the Gulf of Aden might start operating this summer.

Commission of the line, to have an eventual capacity of 120,000 bpd, had been put back from April because its Soviet builders had cash flow problems.

Muhani said North Yemen's crude export earnings jumped to \$360 million in 1989 from around \$40 million in 1988. He predicted a 13 per cent rise in 1990 provided world oil prices do not fall sharply.

Aden will spend \$70 million to develop the Assad Al Kamil field discovered by the Yemen Hunt Oil Company — a joint venture with US firms Hunt and Exxon — in the coming year, the minister said.

By mid-1991 the field would be producing up to 8,000 bpd of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). Its reserves were an estimated 2.7 trillion cubic feet, as well as 200 million barrels of oil.

A \$28-million LPG bottling plant was to be built at Sanaa by Germany's Mannesmann Anlagenbau Company, meeting the country's cooking gas needs, Muhani said.

But the project hinged on West Germany providing a promised 50 per cent of the cost.

The plan would have a capacity 135,000 tonnes per year.

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The seminar will cover a wide range of subjects of interest to overseas Indians with special emphasis on the requirements and problems of Indians living in the Arabian Gulf, like education.

NRI Forum

Chairman seeks support for seminar

THE NRI Investors Forum delegation consisting of Abbas Mehta, chairman of the organising committee for the third Gulf NRI seminar, and R.P. Singh, first secretary (commercial), Embassy of India, Kuwait, on a visit to India, have convened to the Forum chairman, C.S.S. Khanpur, that they have received enthusiastic response and support from the ministers and other important officials of the Government of India for the third Gulf NRI seminar to be held in Delhi on July 4, 5, and 6.

It is hoped that the seminar would attract high-level government participation. The full details would be announced after the return of the delegation to Kuwait.

The chairman of the Forum appeals to the Indian community to extend full support for the success of the seminar. He is happy with the large number of initial enquiries being received from the fellow NRIs in Kuwait, Bahrain, UAE and Saudi Arabia. The very satisfactory arrangements already completed by the seminar organising committee, specially the highly subsidised rates for registration, hotel and air-travel, have generated great interest and appreciation amongst the Gulf NRIs.

The registration fee is only KD27/- which covers the cost of conference and all the lunches and other facilities. A family need to pay only one registration fee. The Tai Palace Hotel charges for three nights, including breakfast, are KD37/- (twin-sharing) or KD57/- (single) per person.

The registration can be made with the Kuwait India International Exchange Co. at their Kuwait or Fahad offices. One can also register with Mohammed Merchant at his Shuwaikh office.

The chairman advises that the Forum is printing two memorable and beautiful souvenirs in Kuwait and Delhi, and requests the community in Kuwait for their contribution to the souvenir by contacting Vijay Kapoor of New India Insurance Co., who is convenor of the overseas souvenir sub-committee.

The seminar will cover a wide range of subjects of interest to overseas Indians with special emphasis on the requirements and problems of Indians living in the Arabian Gulf, like education.

KD deposit market quiet

KUWAIT, May 6 (Reuter): The Kuwaiti dinar interbank deposit market was once again quiet today, with European markets closed for the weekend, dealers said.

Business took place in short dates, and overnight dealt at 8-1/4 per cent, 8-3/8 and later at 8-1/2. Tomorrow/next and spot/next were being quoted around 8-5/8.

Fixed dates were inactive, they said, and rates remained generally unchanged.

The Central Bank fixed the dinar at 0.29256/66 to the dollar.

Capital outflow set to rise

Taiwan to expand foreign investment

By M.C. Bose
Business Editor

TAIWAN is expected to become Asia's fifth major financial centre following the government's decision to introduce international foreign exchange brokerage firms to run the local foreign exchange market.

Two unidentified international foreign exchange brokers, ranked among the world's top 10, have applied with the Central Bank of China (CBC) to take over local foreign exchange transactions from the state-run "Foreign Exchange Market Development Foundation," CBC officials said. According to the government's plan, the two firms will form a joint venture to run the local foreign exchange markets by the end of the year, probably with local bank group.

With the assistance of two firms, the 48 local foreign exchange banks will have their foreign exchange transactions closely connected with those in global financial markets, the officials said.

This link will give the banks access to international foreign exchange trading network, resulting in the rise of Taipei as a new financial centre in Asia, along with Tokyo, Hong Kong, Singapore and Sydney.

In the long-run, this access will allow local banks to expand their markets for foreign exchange trading and inter-bank loans in the US dollar. As a result of these changes, local importers and exporters will enjoy better foreign exchange services for diversifying their investments.

Meanwhile, the government will continue to encourage local manufacturers to invest overseas in order to help boost the nation's foreign trade, the Council for Economic Planning and Development has said.

According to CEPD officials, the government has decided to increase the rate of overseas investment to a level equivalent to 10 per cent of the gross national product, the same as that of Japan.

CEPD sources said, Taiwan businessmen investing in the United States are seeking to establish sales networks or circumvent potential trade barriers,

while those launching joint ventures in Southeast Asia are apparently seeking easy access to national resources and cheap labour. For example, Taiwan's bilateral trade rose by 23 per cent during the same period.

Central Bank officials said long-term capital outflow will grow 30 to 50 per cent from last year's \$7.4 billion. A total of \$12 billion capital outflow is expected during the whole of this year.

The Central Bank Governor Samuel Shieh said capital outflow was estimated about \$3 billion for the first three months of the year.

In the past few years, the island's capital outflow has totalled about \$8.2 billion annually, below the current account balance of \$1.1 billion.

Minister of Economy, Chen Li-An has predicted that Taiwan's trade surplus is likely to shrink from last year's \$13 billion to about \$7 billion this year. Chen's forecast was based on first quarter statistics, which recorded a mere \$1.8 billion trade surplus.

The jobless rate in January dropped to 3.1 per cent, its lowest level since March 1981, but it rose slightly to 3.6 per cent in February, according to official statistics released recently.

In another development Taiwan and Singapore recently linked two bilateral agreements after the first official ministerial meeting to strengthen economic and trade ties.

This is the first time Taiwan has signed an agreement with a country which has no diplomatic relations. The agreement also provides protection for investors and preferential treatment for products imported for trade fairs.

Taiwan is also negotiating with other Southeast Asian countries for similar investment accords to protect investors. The Republic of China is also expected to sign similar agreements with South Africa, South Korea and the European Economic Community.

The two-way trade between Taipei and Singapore has been growing steadily over the years and reached \$2.86 billion last year, an increase of 18.3 per cent with Taipei registering a trade surplus of \$1.08 billion.

Oil consumption continues to grow

Opec urges Arabs to drill deeper

ABU DHABI, May 6 (Reuter): Arab states should use modern technology to drill deeper to find more oil, a senior official of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) said.

Abdul Aziz Al Wazir, assistant secretary-general of the 10-nation group, said it was unlikely more major oil reserves would be found relatively near the surface.

"We should resort to advanced technology to reach deep areas where there are very big hydrocarbon potentials," he told the United Arab Emirates Oil Ministry magazine Petroleum and Industry.

Wazir said most Arab oil wells were drilled no more than 3,000 metres, but added that there had been significant discoveries at depths of around 7,000 metres in Oman, Iraq and Kuwait.

Meanwhile, Opec's monthly bulletin today said when taking decisions about expanding production capacity, the oil exporting countries assume that world consumption will continue to grow. Thus producers and consumers are linked by a common interest.

The importers want to secure supplies while the exporters want to secure markets. The enormous investments needed to expand production capacity require a comparable increase in consumption to make them economically justified, the monthly bulletin's editorial went on.

However, the prospects for growth in world oil demand are subject to constant revision, which creates doubt about the like likelihood of their being realised. Indications are that some consumers are determined to limit the growth in

their consumption or even reduce consumption if possible, the Kuwait-based Opec said.

Some countries seized the opportunity to impose new duties and taxes on oil products rather than allow the consumer to benefit from the fall in prices and thus increase its demand. The taxes continued to rise until they were several times higher than the price received by the exporting countries.

While crude oil prices stand at \$16-18 per barrel, the Japanese government, for example, levies taxes totalling \$34 per barrel on oil products, and European governments collect about \$40 per barrel. It is clear from the declared energy policies of major consuming countries that they intend to impose further taxes under the banner of environmental protection.

Since the industrial countries reaped excess of \$30 billion in taxes on oil consumption in 1989, would it not be possible to channel some of this revenue to solving environmental problems rather than imposing additional taxes that will curb demand?

The scale of investments and manpower required to expand the production capacity of Opec countries is such that these countries must first ascertain the forecast pattern of demand on which to base their investment decisions, so long as no constructive atmosphere of cooperation exists with the consumers, the producers cannot be expected to make investments without any sure signs of profit.

ABDULAZIZ AHMED AL-ISSA EST Offer

CHALLENGING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

1. MARKETING EXECUTIVES: (3) MALE/FEMALE

Graduate with 5 years' experience in sale of Office Automation Products, smart, outgoing personality. Below 35 years with strong aptitude for Marketing. Should drive his/her own car.

Salary & perquisites will be directly related to ability and proven performance.

2. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

Preferably with English-Arabic knowledge.

3. OFFICE ATTENDANT: (1)

Educated, hardworking & sincere. Below 30 years.

4. CENTRAL AIRCONDITIONING DEPT (MAINTENANCE)

(i) A/C FOREMAN: (1)

Diploma in Airconditioning & Refrigeration with 5-7 years' experience in Kuwait. Age - below 30 years. Should be able to co-ordinate, organise, supervise & practically run the department in an efficient & profitable way. Must drive his own car.

(ii) A/C MECHANICS:

Below 30 years - 2-3 years' experience in Kuwait, capable of finding out faults & carrying out necessary repairs of the different CAC systems on the spot.

(iii) ASST. MECHANICS/HELPERS:

Below 25 years, educated, 1-2 years experience.

Singh lashes out at rich nations for resorting to protectionism

US to seek operational improvements in ADF lending

By Thomas Abraham

Arab Times correspondent
NEW DELHI, May 5. Prospects of an early replenishment of the Asian Development Bank's soft-lending window — the Asian Development Fund (ADF) — appeared bleak as major donor countries led by the United States insisted all negotiations be deferred till at least next year.

In fact, the donors seemed to have reached a consensus at the bank's 23rd annual meeting here that the ADF-six need not be launched before 1992, a full year after the present ADF-five is due to end.

The bank had projected a \$10.4 billion replenishment for ADF-six, a figure that the United States described as "far beyond the realm of what is either realistic or desirable". US governor ad interim George A. Folsom felt the needs had been worked out on the assumption of a fixed share of a growing investment budget for borrowers and did not allow for dynamic changes as a result of successful development.

Folsom said the suggested figure was too large for the traditional borrowers to be economically realistic. He questioned whether these coun-

tries had the capacity to absorb this magnitude of well prepared and implemented projects.

Basically, the United States felt there was no case for beginning negotiations on ADF-six immediately, based on the present availability of resources. Including reserves for foreign exchange variations, the ADF should have sufficient resources to finance its operations during 1991 and well into 1992 Folsom said.

Under this scenario, he said, the life of ADF-five could be extended for one year and negotiations for ADF-six need not be completed till end of 1991, at the earliest.

Folsom also warned that when the negotiations begin, the United States will seek substantive operational and administrative improvements in the bank's ADF lending.

The US also said that since an increase in the bank's ordinary capital resources did not have to be in place until 1993, there was no immediate urgency to begin or conclude negotiations on that.

British Overseas Development Minister Lynda Chalker said Britain would naturally play its part in the

negotiations for replenishment of ADF but considered it vital all the traditional donors should take an active part in the discussions.

Chalker said the bank had fortunately a considerable cushion of com-

mitment authority to tide it over if the negotiations were not completed by the time envisaged. According to her, a capital increase seemed further away and could be some value in considering the two resource requirements in parallel. What is at stake is where the bank should put most of its lending eight in the 1990s," she said.

Japanese Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto hoped the bank's general capital increase and the ADF replenishment would be started at an appropriate time after full study and with the agreement of all the countries concerned.

West Germany, Italy, Sweden and Norway were among the countries which supported the move for early negotiations, along with the two Asian giants, India and China.

For India and China, a special interest is the fact that both have some access to soft loans from ADF for the first time. India has been

a founder member of the bank but started borrowing from the bank's ordinary capital resources (OCR) only in 1986. China became a member of ADF in 1986, but ADF has suspended lending to it after the suppression of the pro-democracy movement there last year.

The US and other major donors are yet to take a view of India's and China's claims. Some feel that allowing them access to ADF would restrict the flow of concessional aid to the traditional borrowers.

Australia has supported India's and China's claim as has Norway. Governors for both India and China reiterated their claim at the open session of the bank's board of governors on Thursday, arguing they needed the concessional resources to finance development programmes and attack the problems of poverty.

Both India and China also spoke out strongly against the bank's decision making being affected by political factors. Peoples' Bank of China Governor Li Guixian pointed out that it was clearly stated in the bank's charter that its decision-making should be based on economic considerations alone and not by

political factors.

"The strict adherence to the rules of the bank's charter is the unshakable duty of the ADF and its members," he said regretting that China's good relationship with the bank had been subjected to undue interference from certain quarters.

India's finance secretary Bimal Jalan, the alternate governor, reminded the bank that its charter enjoined upon it to maintain political neutrality. Political actions in the nature of a policy advice or decisions on access to bank's resources went against the very precepts on which international development institutions had been founded, he said.

In the corridors of the annual meeting which ended here Friday, the United States seemed to be under fire for dragging its feet in the closed door talks about new funding for the ADF. Developing member countries are anxious to see an early start for the next replenishment with as much funds as possible. ADB officials would like to see the new resources voted in time for the next annual meeting in Vancouver.

Delegates say the Japanese appeared to be toeing the US line on the issue, while the US knows full well it can block the negotiations.

Folsom tried to explain his country's position to newsmen saying it would first like to clear its outstanding commitments before taking on new responsibilities. (The US and Japan are the two largest donors to certain quarters.)

The US is in arrears of \$156 million to ADF and has to clear this year's dues of \$146 million. Further, over the next two years, it is committed to pay up \$425 million to the bank's GCI.

With the bank itself keen on striking a consensus other donors would be reluctant to go ahead without the US.

In short, the three day meeting of the bank's board of governors ended on an unevenly note, with no decisions on any major issue.

These include the timing and size of replenishment of ADF, access of India and China to ADF, and the resumption of ADB lending to China.

As far as resumption of project lending to China, both the US and Japan are opposed to it. Folsom told reporters yesterday that this was an

issue that had to be decided at higher levels among the Group of Seven.

The US is also yet to take a position on the eligibility of India and China for soft loans from ADF. But it is clear that the two countries will not get any lending from ADF-five because India had not put up any claim when the last replenishment was negotiated while China was not even a member of the ADB then.

The meeting was inaugurated Wednesday by Indian Prime Minister P.V. Singh who lashed out at the industrialised countries for resorting to protectionism and for reducing the flow of resources to the poor nations just when they needed them most.

Singh said many developing countries were opening up their economies and trying to integrate them into the world trading system. To support these trends they needed greater financial flows and an open trading system. But the world has a long way to go in this area," he said.

The Indian leader said the need of the developing countries for development finance was very large, and a substantial portion of these funds must come on concessional terms. Multi-lateral institutions, including

the ADB, must play a major role in stepping up the net flow of resources to the developing countries, he said.

Singh said the Asian region had actively participated in the expansion of world trade and benefited from it. All countries in the region had a powerful stake in the preservation of an open trading system. He said, regretting the growing tendency to think in terms of exclusive trading blocs.

Singh was joined in his plea by Finance Minister Madhu Dandavate who is the chairman of the ADB board of governors.

ADB President Kimura Tarumizu, in his opening address, wanted the bank to advance in three broad directions: alleviating poverty, promoting the development of the private sector and creating a policy framework with developing members, enabling the bank to contribute more effectively to their economic adjustment.

Making an eloquent plea for the developing countries for development finance was very large, and a substantial portion of these funds must come on concessional terms. Multi-lateral institutions, including

Jordan to get Saudi Arabian aid

AMMAN, May 6. (Reuters): Saudi Arabia, one of Jordan's main Arab financial backers, has agreed to give Amman \$200 million in badly needed aid, diplomats said today.

They said King Fahd promised the aid to King Hussein during brief talks the two men had late last month when the Jordanian monarch performed a minor pilgrimage to the Muslim holy sites of Makkah and Medina.

Amman received the same amount from Riyadh last year.

Jordan, struggling under a foreign debt load of \$8 billion, has budgeted \$360 million in Arab aid in 1990. For 10 years ending in 1988 Saudi Arabia gave Jordan \$360 million a year after a 1978 Arab summit in Bagdad pledged support for Arab states on the frontlines with Israel.

Jordanian officials refused to comment on the Saudi aid pledge but said Amman had so far received only 6.5 per cent of the budgeted aid for 1990.

"As a government, we are not a crisis but we are very tight in budget," a senior Jordanian official told Reuters. "We are reducing our expenditures," he added.

Foreign exchange margin trading

GULF BANK management announced yesterday the introduction of Foreign Exchange Margin Trading Service.

They indicated that the new service is designed to allocate Foreign Exchange trading lines against a margin of up to 25 per cent of the transaction value. The margin will be deposited in an interest bearing account with the Gulf Bank. A \$500,000 trading line requires a maximum margin of \$125,000. A very attractive deal where a customer deposits a margin amount of up to \$125,000 for a trading line of \$500,000. Customers don't need to risk 100 per cent of their money to facilitate this service.

Commenting on the new service, Gulf Bank Management said, "customers with on-going requirements for foreign exchange can trade forward purchases or sales of foreign exchange by telephone, telex or fax to their accounts, confirmed by a letter."

"Foreign Exchange Margin Trading is available in US dollars, Deutsche marks, Japanese yen, pounds sterling, Swiss franc, French francs, Dutch guilders and Australian dollars, but excluding Kuwaiti dinars," Gulf Bank management noted.

"A minimum trading line of \$500,000 with a minimum transaction of \$500,000 will be required. Additionally, the service will be provided without any charges to customers," they added.

Japanese bank branch in India

NEW DELHI, May 6: Encouraged by the policy of liberalisation followed by the Government of India, the Japanese Sanwa Bank is opening a branch here by November this year.

The bank will be looking for a specialised nature of wholesale business in India. It will continue to assist Indian clients through its merchant banking subsidiary in Hong Kong to meet their offshore financial requirements, said Michihiko Shinohara, a general manager of the bank.

The Sanwa Bank will be the third Japanese bank to open a branch in India. The Bank of Tokyo already has branches in Bombay, Delhi and Calcutta, and the Bank of Mitsui has a branch in Bombay.

Shinohara said the Japanese view India as a market and many Japanese companies are willing to do business with India.

Further price rises imposed

Egypt hikes prices of fuel by up to 33.3pc

CAIRO, Egypt, May 6. (Agencies): The government today hiked the price of gasoline and other kinds of fuel by up to 33.3 per cent, another step in its continued efforts to reduce the \$1.3 billion subsidy system.

The price of kerosene was increased by 3 piasters (1 cent) per litre to 10 piasters (3 cents). Kerosene is widely used as cooking fuel by low-income city residents as well as peasants in the countryside.

And the price of piped natural gas was hiked by 1.3 piasters (.5 cents) per cubic metre to 4.7 piasters (1.7 cents). The piped natural gas is used for cooking and heating in middle and high income suburbs in Cairo.

The IMF's demands include decreasing the subsidy system, a unified exchange rate for the Egyptian pound which would mean its devaluation and increasing the interest rate in banks.

The price of the top-grade

gasoline was hiked by 15 piasters (five cents) to 55 piasters (20 cents) per litre. A litre, or one-fourth gallon, of second grade gasoline was also increased from 40 piasters (15 cents) to 50 piasters (11 cents) per litre.

In his May Day speech, President Hosni Mubarak stressed that the 3.6 billion Egyptian pound (\$1.3 billion) subsidy system of energy, food and other basic commodities had to be phased out.

"So that things become clear to you, every increase in the population means an increase in consumption and the subsidies will grow until we consume the country's budget and there will come a time when we do not find money for anything at all," Mubarak said in his nationally broadcast speech.

"The government cannot keep up the subsidy with the increase in population and consumption," he said.

Egypt's 55 million grow by nearly three per cent annually, a high growth rate by world standards.

As an example, Mubarak said that the litre of kerosene was sold for 7 piasters (2.6 cents) while it cost the government 29 piasters (11 cents).

The average per capita income in Egypt is \$680. Mubarak also stressed in his speech that he could not promise any increases in salaries because of the budget deficit.

Egyptian officials were in Washington this weekend to continue their protracted negotiations with the IMF aimed at rescheduling about \$5 billion of Cairo's \$50 billion foreign debt and opening the way for fresh credits.

In more than a year of negotiations the IMF has repeatedly asked Egypt to slash subsidies on staple items, reduce overall government spending and increase interest rates to the level of inflation to attract savings.

Workers begin hunger strike

SEOUL, South Korea, May 6. (AP): Dozens of militant workers holding up a huge crane at the world's largest shipyard announced today they were beginning a hunger strike to press their demand for the release of jailed union leaders, news reports said.

Otherwise, labour unrest around the country had subsided, with no serious protests reported today.

In Ulsan, a port city 320 kilometres (200 miles) southeast of Seoul, officials of the Hyundai Heavy Industries Co. shipyard said they were ready to negotiate to end the protest but workers atop the crane insisted that the company accept their demands first, the reports said.

Despite all this, the Communist Party's radical wing appears to be gaining strength on a platform of socialist reforms. Yakovlev told the newspaper Moskovsky Komosobol: "Generally, in the course of this year, we must prepare conditions for a market economy."

During a recent trip to Sverdlovsk in the Ural mountains, Gorbachev encountered citizen arguments that the economy had worsened and further reforms would plunge it into an abyss.

Speakers and demonstrators at the May Day parade on Tuesday in Moscow also expressed serious concern over the effects of proposed reforms.

Gorbachev called in March for a "normal, full-fledged market," and has said a new reform package would be announced at a session of the Supreme Soviet parliament that begins May 14.

During a recent trip to Sverdlovsk in the Ural mountains, Gorbachev encountered citizen arguments that the economy had worsened and further reforms would plunge it into an abyss.

In Moscow, Stanislav Shatalin, the presidential council said: "The USSR is not Poland. We are not one nation, united under one church and the colossal authority of the Pope in Abkhazia."

Nineteen workers, saying they were sick, came down from the crane on Saturday and were arrested. Police expected more workers to come down in a day or two.

Police denied that they were planning a raid to end the protest, although anti-terrorist teams and two helicopters were standing by at the shipyard.

Police spread nets and air mattresses around the base of the crane to prevent suicides. The workers threatened to take "extreme action" unless their demands were accepted.

The Soviet Union consists of 15 republics whose economic conditions range from relative well-being in Europe to widespread poverty and unemployment in central Asia.

Unlike Poland, our government does not have a credit of trust, and so forth," said Shatalin, an economist for the council created in March.

The dispute threatened to delay an overall agreement on the IMF's resources.

A Treasury official recently said he expects the Group of Seven industrial powers to support a 50 per cent increase in the IMF's \$120 billion capital.

Finance ministers and central bankers of the G-7 nations — the United States, Japan, West Germany, Britain, France, Canada and Italy — will convene today in Washington, prior to the spring meetings Monday and Tuesday of the IMF and the World Bank.

The G-7 will discuss the IMF's capital, progress on developing countries' debt, and the exchange rates for the dollar and the Japanese yen.

The IMF's interim committee, a policy advisory body, will debate Monday the G-7's proposals on debt and the IMF, as well as those of the developing countries.

Camdessus noted that after protracted negotiations, 19 out of the IMF's 22 executive directors still want a capital boost larger than 50 per cent.

According to the US Treasury, "there is consensus" that Japan should move from

being the fifth-largest IMF shareholder, perhaps sharing the No. 2 position with West Germany, now the No. 3 shareholder.

The United States is the largest shareholder in the IMF. Voting rights are based on the size of a nation's ranking as a shareholder.

But, No. 2 Britain and No. 4 France were at loggerheads about which nations should occupy the No. 4 and 5 shareholder slots if Japan were to move up, or whether the two countries should jointly hold the No. 4 position.

Camdessus expressed confidence that the disagreement between the French and the British would soon be solved, "if it has not been solved already."

British and French officials at the IMF could not be reached for comment.

The increase in the IMF capital will be linked to a "strengthening" of the strategy to deal with the 11 countries with \$4 billion in arrears on loan repayments to the fund, Camdessus said.

Moscow won't use shock therapy on economy

MOSCOW, May 6. (AP):

Fears of

unemployment,

inflation

Colourful and lively display ends India Festival



A section of the large audience.



Kathakali dancer from the state of Kerala.

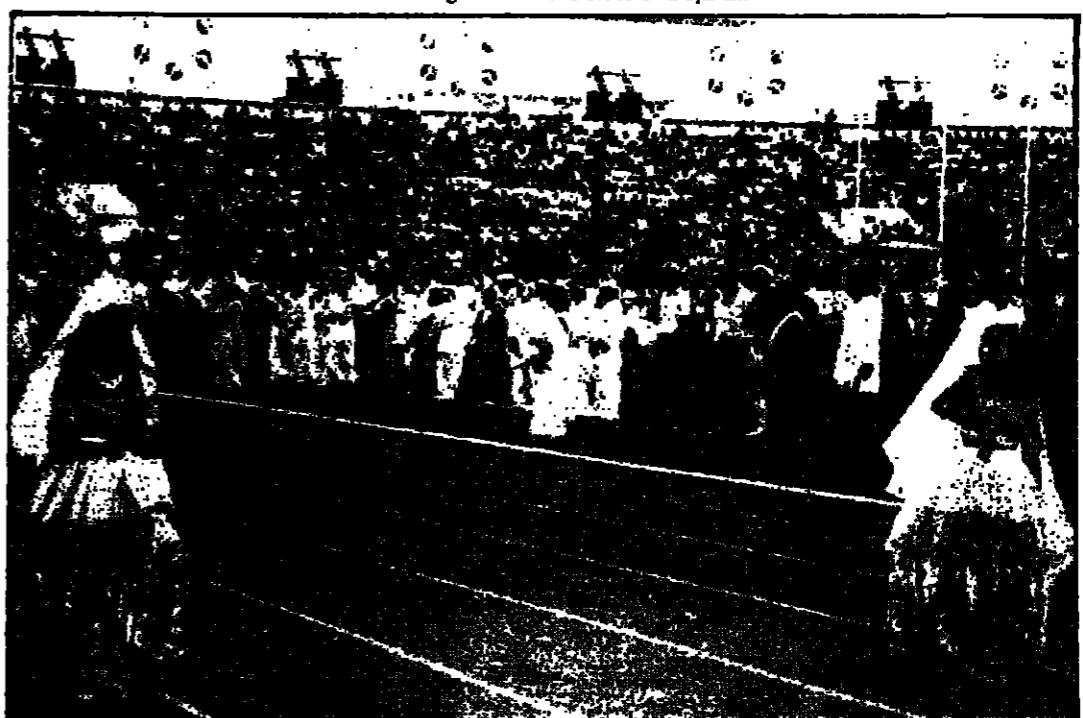


The contingent from the state of Gujarat.



Sikh contingent from the Punjab.

Pictures by Ahmed Emad



Representatives from the state of Manipur.

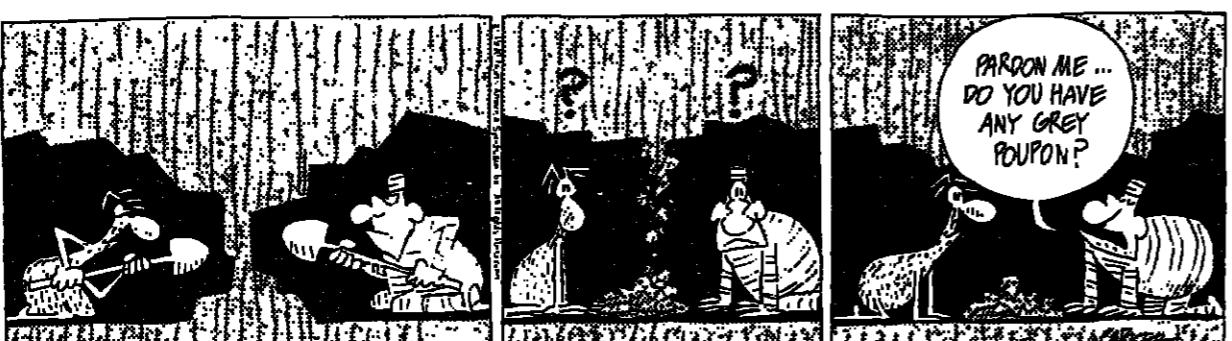
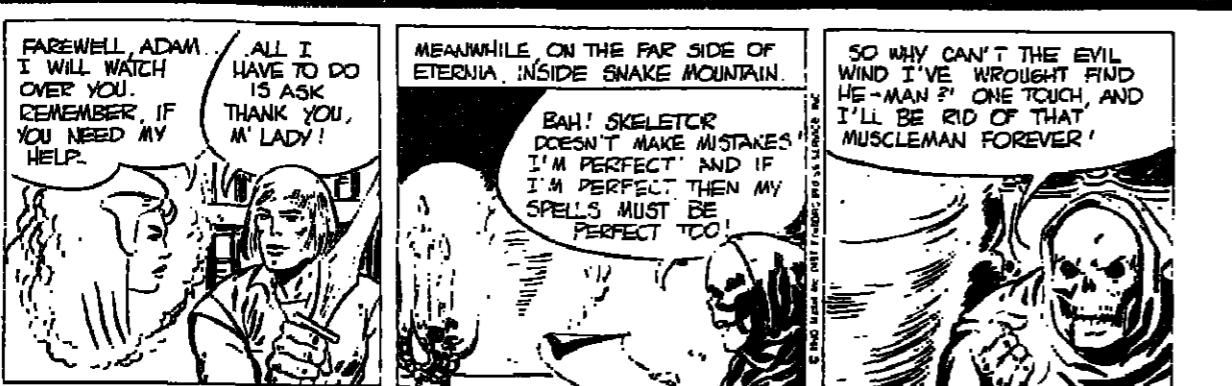
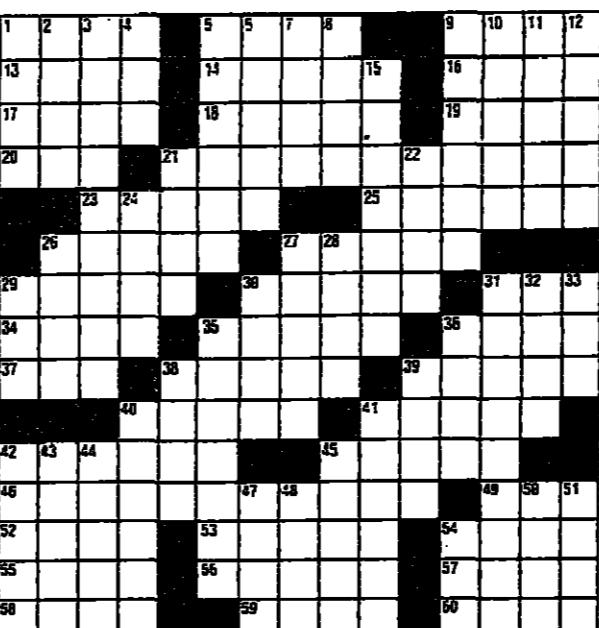
INDIANS in Kuwait concluded their first major festival Friday at the Friendship and Peace Stadium (Kazma) with a spectacular display of its multifarious states in all its splendour. 4,000 local Indians participated in various pageants drawn from all the states of India to provide entertainment to over 20,000 spectators.

Indian Ambassador Arun Kumar Buddhiraaja in his opening speech congratulated the community for uniting despite its diversity to put up the 10 day India Festival. Special thanks went to IAC President, M. Mathews and members of the IAC.

The state parade was led by Festival Queen, Viletta Fernandes, and the festival drummer who was the official mascot. Goa and Kerala both were truly well represented by their largest contingents. Some states however, were represented by a contingent of one.

In the mass dancing that followed the bhangra dancers of Punjab although very lively and colourful was a trifle disordered but the Gujarati dandiya ras dancers and the over 200 classical dancers soon set things in order.

The evening ended with the formation of the map of India by the participants. Torch-bearers added to the fantastic display. The evening was compered by Adeeb Shuaiber, Prabha Sivaram and Vasanta Balika.

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake**HAGAR THE HORRIBLE** — By Dik Browne**AGATHA CRUMM** — By Bill Hoest**BEETLE BAILEY** — By Mort Walker**THE WIZARD OF IC** — By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart**ANDY CAPP****PC** — By Johnny Hart**HE-MAN** — By G. Force & J. Shuff**TODAY'S CROSSWORD**

ACROSS
1 Sellick and Brokaw
5 —accomplice
9 Catches
13 Like —out of hell
14 Shady place
16 Toward the sheltered side
17 Ready for picking
18 Storage box
19 Midmorning
20 —Aviv
21 Symbol of Judaism
23 Customs
25 Saree wearers
26 Knock down
27 Greek letter
29 Vigilant
30 Roosevelt's Bull —Party
31 Shoshonean
34 Martin or Rusk
35 Wetland
36 Fall or flake starter
37 Crossword clue: Abbr.
38 Schedules
39 "A miss is as good as —,"
40 Hecklers, for example
41 Talk nonsense
42 Catches
45 Rule
46 Symbol of freedom
49 Task
52 Airline abbreviations
53 More than odd
54 Produced
55 Art Deco illustrator

DOWN
27 Wrongful acts
28 Cartwright son
29 Fold in eggs
30 Sail support
31 British symbol
32 Bridge fee
33 Born to be shorn
35 Faun pas
36 Weather word
38 Wanton look
39 Seed cover
40 Adjust in advance
41 Cross out
42 Catch some z's
43 Before glycerin
44 Reduce
45 Slows a steed
47 Part of a decade
48 Spirit, in Siena
50 Garfield's dog
51 Garden plots
54 Fannie —

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

H	A	R	M	S	E	T	A	R	A	T	S	O
I	D	E	A	O	M	A	R	E	T	H	E	I
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E	N	L	A	I	E	X	T	I	T	Y	N	I
S	S	E	G	I	L	M	A	R	I	N	A	S
W	H	O	M	P	A	M	P					
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C	U	I	C	E	R							

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

HARM SETARATSO IDEAOMARETHEIMANNRILLEASONEMIOZARTCONCERTOALEETA

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LOANINGDOS SAPOMMINITALETAPEIRBEETHOVENSONATAENLAIEEXITTINYSSLEGILMARINASWHO MAP

VARIETY

'Calm' settles the dust at Australian stockyards

SYDNEY, (Reuters): More than a million sheep and thousands of cattle and pigs will go under the hammer in Australia this year, never having a dusty stockyard. They will be auctioned by computer.

'Calm' is the name given to the world's first computerised stock auction system and it is revolutionising the way Australian stockmen do business.

"It will one day certainly replace saleyards as the major sale arena," said Howard Gardner, chief executive of Computer Aided Livestock Marketing (Calm).

Instead of attending outback saleyard auctions, buyers across Australia can now bid for stock they have never seen using a mainframe computer situated on the air-conditioned 23rd floor of a Sydney office tower.

By logging into Calm through a personal computer, buyers can simultaneously bid for thousands of head of stock scattered across this vast continent.

Using 1,700 assessors, who inspect stock entered for auction, Calm compiles a statistical catalogue for each lot, which includes an animal's live weight, fat content, age, sex, grazing conditions and veterinary treatment.

"The detail of the assessment probably gives the buyer more information than he would pick up seeing and feeling the animals," said agricultural expert Neil Inall.

"We have de-registered a lot of assessors because they haven't made the grade," Gardner said. "In fact, a lot of people who have been stockmen all their lives don't make the grade."

Buyers are required under the conditions of purchase to have stock re-assessed when slaughtered.

If stock turn out to be of poorer quality than the initial sale assessment the purchase price is discounted, while if stock are of higher quality the producer is paid a premium.

"A buyer should get what he pays for and a seller should be paid for what he delivers," said Gardner.

By avoiding the saleyard the producers reduces his transport costs as he can ship stock directly to the purchaser.

"Our philosophy is to get a consistently better quality product from the producer to the slaughter houses or breeders," said Gardner.

Since its launch in July 1987 Calm has experienced 60 per cent growth in cattle sales, 47 per cent growth in lamb and sheep sales and 46 per cent growth in pig sales.

The Calm licence was recently sold to New Zealand stock agents Fletcher Challenge who intend using Calm's computer in Sydney to hold their first auction on August 1 at which Australian buyers will be able to bid.

But Calm's rapid growth belies the stubborn resistance it has encountered from conservative stockmen, and stock agents worried about loss of income.

Malcolm Kater, a fourth generation stockman in western New South Wales, has used Calm twice but remains sceptical of the new technology.

"I just don't know," said Kater, shaking his head as he inspected a Calm screen on display at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. "I still like to kick a bit of dust."

Kater admits Calm has obvious cost saving benefits, but adds stockmen have idiosyncratic ways of judging animals which they are reluctant to abandon.

"When I go to an auction I always sit in the second row and if a young 18-month-old bull stands up to my solar plexus I know he's very good and must've had good breeding," said Kater. "You can't do that with Calm."

Kater said Calm was a good price barometer, but believed it would never replace saleyards.

"You fall in love with your stock. You breed them, raise them, and sure you know they're going to have their throats cut, but you want to haggle a bit before you let them go," said Kater.



Randy one of the frontier men looking for a bride.



Alaska Men magazine cover. The magazine has now introduced a hot line on which women can hear a message recorded by anyone of the men and leave a personal reply.

Lovelorn kings of the wild frontier

STRONG, tough and self-reliant, the men of Alaska are kings of the last American wild frontier. There's just one thing missing from their lives... women.

Now an enterprising mother of nine has set about remedying that drawback to life in the most rugged state.

Susie Carter and husband, Dave, have founded a magazine called Alaska Men dedicated to finding mates for the moosecake that smiles out from its glossy pages hoping to entice the unattached women of America northwards.

And 200,000 of them where there is tougher competition for dates are already buying the quarterly magazine.

Susie's mission of mercy, which has brought new hope of happiness to a land where men outnumber women by as many as 35 to one in the more remote regions, is to extend to television.

The uncrowned king of the box star-maker Aaron Spelling, is to make a two-hour television special on the Carters and their work and follow it up with a "fiction" series loosely based on some of their success stories.

Spelling, the driving force behind the string of hit shows from *Charlie's Angels* and *Hutch* to *Hart to Hart* and *Dynasty*, plans to put it out on the ABC network.

"We are thrilled," says Susie. She adds: "Alaska has an abundance of interesting and exciting men whose rugged individualism, spirit and vitality make them unique among the men of the world."

"Alaska's men are one of her finest natural resources."

The samples on offer in a recent edition of the magazine confirm her boast.

Take Gene Wescenfelder, an energy specialist who visits 45 remote Alaskan communities in the line of duty, and is pictured pulling a sled across the foot of a 10,000 ft glacier covered with snow.

Thirty-two-year-old Gene, who has grey-green eyes and stands 5ft 11ins in his socks, is looking for a "woman who'd be willing to dig me out of an avalanche if need be."

Dishy Jeff Seastone went to Alaska to do summer stock and stayed on to study theatre at the University of Alaska in Anchorage. Jeff, who is 23 and has been in love with theatre since the age of 12, wants to move to Hollywood eventually.

Meanwhile, he would ask any woman he thought might interest him just three questions -- what her favourite cartoon is, what

her favourite crayon colour is, and what flavour ice cream she likes best.

The answers, he says, would tell him if she could be suitable for him.

Chuck Lastufka is pictured in plaid shirt and knee-high waders holding a fish almost as big as himself and standing in front of his own private plane.

Chuck, who is 56, has a degree in education and speech and is currently a real estate associate who has been single for nine years and says his two college student children are the accomplishment of which he is most proud.

He would like letters from "serious women of integrity and class."

Dough Ohns, pictured with a fish almost as large as Chuck's is a 30-year-old data processing manager of a retail chain who says he wants to continue to explore "the mystery and mystique" of life in Alaska.

Susie herself is one of Alaskan men's biggest admirers. She says: "They are men face the extremes of Alaskan life -- the dark, cold winters, the vast, emptiness of unpopulated lands and the isolation, with humor, determination, and an appreciation of life on the last frontier."

"They are men who find strength and satisfaction in their unique lifestyle. Here are the men of whom legend is made. They are gold miners, fur trappers, bush pilots and explorers, oilfield workers, executives, construction workers and doctors."

"And each has his own Alaskan dream."

Susie, whose nine children range in age from 30 years down to nine, met her own husband in California. The trouble was, he was an Alaskan man at heart.

In the end, he persuaded her to give it a try. She says: "I was used to the ocean and the beach and the hot weather. But I agreed that I would come and would stay for a year."

Eight years later, she loves the place as much as he does and has no plans to move south again. She says: "My friends say we are so far away from everything here but we are actually very well situated for getting to other places."

"We can hop over to Hawaii, or to the Orient, or to England, very easily from Alaska."

Though she took to Alaska herself with an unexpected enthusiasm, Susie soon became concerned about the men who were part-time or full-time fathers but without women in their lives there.

With three men for every two women in the population overall, and a very much greater imbalance away from the bigger centres, bachelors, divorcees and widowers were handicapped when it came to finding a new mate.

It was for them, above all, that she and Dave, who were both already publishers, decided to launch Alaska Men two years ago.

Already, she has been invited to three of the 30 odd wedding ceremonies performed or being planned as a result of the magazine.

She says: "It is impossible to tell how many more couples we have brought together. Some will obviously choose just to live together. Others head for the hills together and we never hear of them again."

"I hope some of them will get in touch and tell us their experiences so they can be included in the television special."

One couple who have already talked about their romance are identified just as Ed and Trish. They are planning a wedding as soon as they can work out how to get all their friends and families, who live thousands of miles apart, together for the ceremony.

Trish was living in her small home town in eastern Kentucky when she heard of Alaska Men and took out a year's subscription.

One look at Ed and she knew he was someone she would like to know better. She showed it to her son, Chris, and he thought so. So she wrote.

The letters soon became telephone calls, the first of which lasted an hour and a half. They exchanged tape recordings. She sent him home-baked cinnamon rolls.

But it was her peach cobbler, express-mailed to Alaska, that clinched it. Ed says: "She may as well have sent me a marriage proposal. It was the best peach cobbler I'd ever tasted."

A few days later, he sent her a plane ticket. Ed met Trish at the airport with a rose. When they got to his home, there was a huge bouquet and a card for her. In it he suggested they try growing old together.

Ed recalls: "She acted kind of strange when she saw the card. Then she pulled a duplicate out of her purse with much the same message for me." More than 4,000 miles apart, they had chosen exactly the same card for one another.

The day before she was due to go home to Kentucky, Ed bought Trish an engagement ring. She still went, but only long enough to pack a few possessions and bring her son back to Anchorage with her.

Science and technology news

Sound diagnosis of torn cartilages

By Mike Wolseley

LONDON, (LPS): The accuracy of diagnosing torn knee cartilages has been dramatically improved by a new computerised knee injury screener that analyses sounds from the cartilage as the joint is moved.

The screener is the result of research by a team from Queen's University in Belfast, Northern Ireland. The project, led by orthopaedic surgeon Gavin Tait, has just won a £10,000 UK national invention of the year award.

Existing clinical techniques for diagnosing the common problem of torn knee cartilages depend on the skill of the surgeon and have an optimum accuracy between 60 and 70 per cent. By contrast, clinical trials with the new screener have produced an overall accuracy of 86 per cent with the additional benefit that it does not need to be used by a skilled surgeon to achieve such results.

Paul Magina, clinical research fellow in the University's orthopaedic surgery department, explained: "Knee problems are the most common reason for referring patients for orthopaedic surgery, particularly sportsmen who put a lot of pressure on the two cartilages within the knee. These fibrous structures act as a type of shock absorber to transmit the body weight when twisting or turning, and that our new technique is giving such accurate results."

"Using our new technology, the patient feels no pain because no injection is required, the examination takes only a few minutes and in preliminary trials with 100 patients in Northern Ireland we have a proven accuracy rate of 86 per cent."

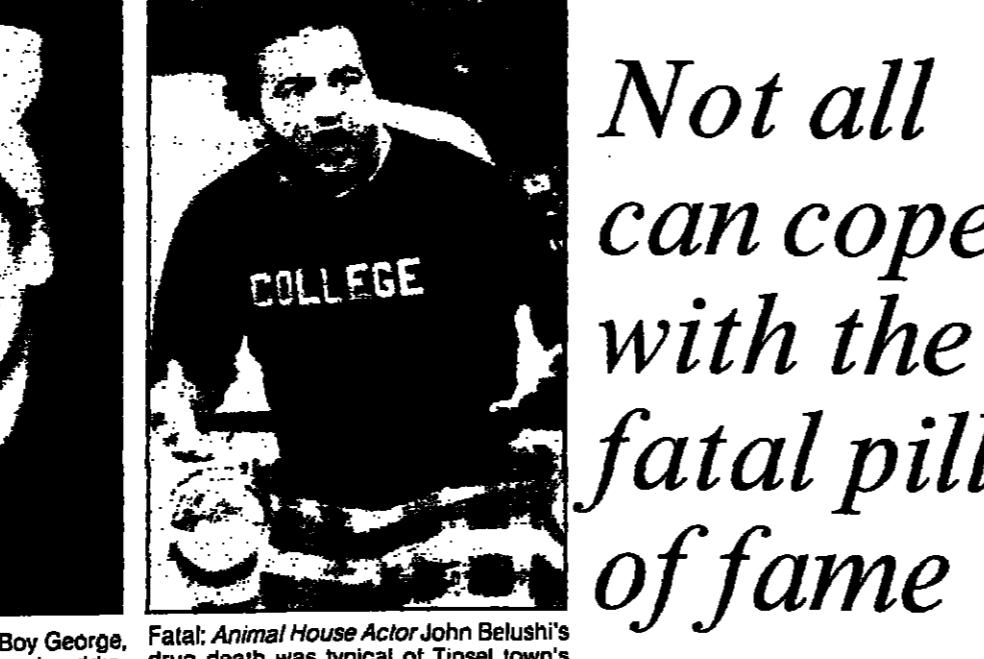
The computer system involves placing three sensors on the patient's knee, one on the knee cap and the others on each side of the lower end of the thigh bone. The sensors then pick up vibrations made by the cartilages when the knee is bent, and the VDU readout confirms the presence and position of a tear in the cartilage.

Paul Magina, Clinical Research Fellow, Musgrave Park Hospital, Stockman's Lane, Belfast 9, Northern Ireland; telephone 44-232 669501.



Right: Mixed Blessings: For actors like *Terms of Endearment* co-stars Shirley MacLaine and Jack Palance, winning an Oscar is the pinnacle of their career, for others it becomes too much to handle.

Top: Rich Pickings: Dr. Kassola enjoys the luxury of her multi-million dollar Bel Air mansion, formerly owned by Jack Benny.



Breakdown: Gender-bender Boy George, recently cured of his deadly heroin addiction, is the latest star to succumb to the constant pressures of superstardom.

Fatal: *Animal House* Actor John Belushi, who died of a drug overdose, was typical of Tinsel town's excesses. "It all becomes intolerable," says Dr. Kassola. "Excess is like a itchy sweater."

It all becomes intolerable. Excess is like an itchy sweater."

Dr. Kassola, mother of two grown-up daughters, went on: "The John Belushi syndrome is typical of this. So is the case of Marilyn Monroe. He destroyed himself with dope and she with depression.

"It is as though it is intolerable to be adored. To go out on the street and have everybody drooling over you, when you feel you haven't earned it."

"They get on to cocaine or become alcoholics. For success is very hard to take. A famous woman TV personality dealt with fame by eating and eating until she had destroyed her looks.

"Stars' children can become sick and ignorant and some commit suicide.

"What happens, generally, is that there is too much of everything in their lives. Even too many Lamborghinis."

Dr. Kassola found that dealing with guilt was the key to her career. She was

struggling to support her children in a flat "the size of a kitchen table" in London's Dulwich when she dealt with her first movie star patient.

The woman had sexual problems,

which Irene Kassola ironed out with flair, sympathy and a touch of show-business.

She returned penniless, but with a new

doctorate, to her native Los Angeles. Her

name had preceded her, and the stars

have never stopped pouring out their

tissues to her ever since.

The doctor writes books with titles like

Nice Girls Do ... And You Can Too,

which frequently appears on TV and radio and has even played herself in the top soap

General Hospital.

Dr. Kassola knows what it is like to

come from eating beans on toast in Lon-

don to grilled lobster in Beverly Hills.

Vital knowledge when dealing with

guilt was the key to her career. She was

struggling to support her children in a

flat "the size of a kitchen table" in Lon-

don's Dulwich when she dealt with her

first movie star patient.

The woman had sexual problems,

which Irene Kassola ironed out with

flair, sympathy and a touch of show-

business.

They don't know what to do with it

all, and they get into drugs. These affect

their sex lives... at first, positively. Then,

because they take too much, negatively.

Their sex starts going and they

become angry. When they were poor,

they were loving and sweet. Now they are

Fairbrother hammers Surrey for 311

LONDON, May 6. (Reuters): Batsmen in England made hay while the sun shone again yesterday, crowding a week of double and triple centuries with more record stands.

As bowlers wilted in the four-day county cricket championship matches, Lancashire's Neil Fairbrother led the way with a career best of 311.

Fairbrother's total, and his third-wicket stand of 364 with Mike Atherton (191), meant Lancashire ended the third day on 65 for three, a vigorous response to the massive 707 for nine, notched up by opponents Surrey.

At Chelmsford, where Essex were replying to Leicestershire's 520, England captain Graham Gooch and Paul Prichard both scored double centuries in a second wicket stand of

403, a club record for any wicket.

"I didn't know what the previous best was until it was announced but I was aware that we had beaten the best for the second wicket," Gooch said.

That was hardly surprising since it was Gooch and Ken McLean who established it 12 years ago with 321 against Kent.

Gooch made 215 in six and a half hours

before being caught behind by Chris Lewis. Prichard eventually fell for 245, a career best that included 31 fours and two sixes. Essex ended on 712 for five.

Yesterday's high scores followed Friday's fireworks when Somerset's Jimmy Cook scored an unbeaten 313 and Surrey's Ian Greig smashed 291.

Australians edge past W. Germans

SYDNEY, May 6. (Reuters): Olympic gold medalists Australia beat 1981 champions West Germany 2-1 today to join England as hot favourites to qualify from Pool A in the women's World Cup hockey tournament.

England overcame a rugged Chinese challenge to win 2-0, their third victory in three games. They lead the six-nation group by one point from Australia.

Two nations from each group qualify for the semifinals. Defending champions the Netherlands, like England unbeaten after three games, and Olympic silver medallists South Korea appear set to qualify from Pool B.

Australia were much more disciplined today and deserved to win despite a spirited second half fight-back by the young West German side.

Kir Small opened the scoring for the top seeds in the 23rd minute and a superb flowing move nine minutes later led to a second field goal by Rachelle Hawkes.

Caren Jungjohann, who also scored in Germany's 2-0 defeat of Japan, pulled one back two minutes after halftime from a short corner, and an Australian victory was never in doubt.

China's rough tactics have annoyed many fans here but England, seeded fourth, showed early on they were not to be intimidated.

Goalkeeper Jo Thompson knocked over Chinese vice-captain Hui Ping Yang after she tackled Thompson when the English player was on the ground. The referee took no action against Thompson awarding a free hit to England.

Karen Brown scored from a penalty stroke in the seventh minute and vice-captain Jill Atkins added a second two minutes before halftime.

In the third Pool A match Argentina and Japan drew 0-0, effectively ending both nations' hopes of reaching the semifinals.

Scott scores first victory

NEW YORK, May 6. (AP): Mike Scott struggled to his first victory of the season and his first regular-season win ever at Mets' Shea Stadium as the Houston Astros routed Dwight Gooden and New York.

Last Sunday in the Astrodome, Scott and Gooden got into a pitcher's duel that Houston eventually won 2-1 in 10 innings. This time, the hitters ruled.

Scott (1-2) gave up a team recording four home runs, but still won after three previous losses in New York. Darryl Strawberry, Howard Johnson, Kevin McReynolds and Gregg Jefferis each homered off Scott, who gave up five runs on nine hits in six innings.

Dwight Gooden (1-3) allowed six runs on nine hits in 6 2/3 innings. He struck out six and walked two.

Giants 4, Expos 1

Robby Thompson hit a two-run homer that broke an eight-inning tie and sent the San Francisco Giants past the Montreal Expos and ended their three-game losing streak.

Results

American League	
Texas	9
Toronto	5
Minnesota	5
Boston	5
Chicago W.S.	6
N.Y. Yankees	11
Seattle	3
National League	
1-Chicago Cubs	3
2-San Diego	6
San Francisco	4
Houston	9
Los Angeles	3
Cincinnati	4
Atlanta at Pittsburgh	postponed-win

Earnhardt wins

TALLADEGA, Alabama, May 6. (AP): Dale Earnhardt nipped Al Unser Jr. in a record-setting opening round of the 1990 International Race of Champions yesterday at Talladega Superspeedway.

Earnhardt, a three-time National Association of Stock Car Auto Racing (Nascar) Winston Cup champion, zoomed past Darrell Waltrip as the leaders in the 12-man all-star event drove into the third turn on the 2.66-mile (4.25-kilometre) high-banked oval on the final lap.

Two-time IROC champion Unser helped Earnhardt make the final pass, the last of 16 lead changes in the 38-lap, 101-mile (161.6-kilometre) race, but the Indy-car star couldn't make a run at the lead before the finish, crossing the line barely a car-length ahead in the battle of identically-prepared IROC Dodge Daytonas.



Hawkins got 39 points for 76ers

76ers eliminate Cavaliers

Trail Blazers take 1-0 lead

PHILADELPHIA, May 6. (AP): Hersey Hawkins scored a career-high 39 points yesterday, leading the Philadelphia 76ers to a 113-97 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers and into the second round of the NBA playoffs.

The 76ers, advancing to the Eastern Conference semifinals for the first time since the 1985-86 season, defeated the Cavaliers three-games-to-two in the first-round series.

They open a best-of-7 series tomorrow night at Chicago against the Bulls.

During the regular season, the Sixers and Bulls split four games, each winning twice at home.

The homecourt advantage the Sixers earned by winning the Atlantic Division title proved the difference in this series. Philadelphia won the first two games at home, then were beaten twice at Richfield, Ohio.

Back home yesterday, the 76ers took an early lead and never let Cleveland catch up.

Hawkins, who last season made only three of 24 field goal attempts as the Sixers were swept in the first round of the playoffs in three games by the New York Knicks, scored 16 points in the first quarter, two in the second period, 10 in

the decisive third period and 11 in the final quarter. He hit four 3-point field goals.

The Sixers had six players in double figures — Hawkins with 18, Ron Anderson 16, Rick Mahorn and Mike Gmusk 12 each and Johnny Dawkins 10. Barkley also grabbed 19 rebounds.

■ Jerome Kersey scored 25 points and grabbed a career playoff high 16 rebounds yesterday as the Portland Trail Blazers opened the Western Conference semifinals with 107-94 victory over the San Antonio Spurs.

Clyde Drexler added 23 points, 11 assists and nine rebounds as Portland fell behind by eight early in the third quarter, rallied to edge ahead at the end of the period, then pulled away at the finish.

Portland played without starting centre Kevin Duckworth, who suffered a broken right hand against Dallas Tuesday night. But the blazers still held a frustrated David Robinson to nine points on 3-of-11 field goals.

Robinson, guarded much of the night by rookie Cliff Robinson, missed his first eight field goal tries and attempted only one from the field in the second half.

Club Bruges take Belgian League title

BRUSSELS, May 6. (AP): Club Bruges had an easy 3-0 win over modest St Truiden yesterday to clinch the Belgian Soccer League title with a match still left.

It was the eighth national title for Club Bruges, who only needed a draw as nearest rivals Anderlecht were already four points behind.

Instead Club Bruges widened their lead to five as Anderlecht — whose minds were probably on their European Cup final against Italian Sampdoria on Wednesday — stumbled to a 1-1 draw away at relegation-threatened Beveren.

The game deteriorated in the second half, with Bulgaria making five substitutions and Brazil three.

The best chance fell to Careca in the 65th minute, after a one-two with Muller, Brazil's best player along with Aldair. But the Napoli forward's shot was saved.

With Bulgaria content to sit back in defence and try the odd counter-attack and Brazil looking tired and making little headway, a draw seemed likely until Aldair struck.

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Perret rides Unbridled to victory in 116th Kentucky Derby

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky, May 6. (Reuter): Unbridled, a 10-1 bet, received a great ride from Jockey Craig Perret to win the 116th Kentucky Derby yesterday.

Summer Squall, at 2-1 one of the favourites at post time to win the mile and 1/4 test for three year olds, was overwhelmed in the stretch by Unbridled and finished second, three and a half lengths behind.

Pleasant Tap, at 40-1, showed amazing

staying power to finish third, nine and a half lengths off the pace.

Mister Frisky, the top pre-race choice at 9-5, finished eighth, a huge 19-1/4 lengths behind the winner.

"When you ask him to do something," Perret said. "He's more than willing to do it."

Perret did his share too.

Unbridled came out of the eighth post position and was nearly caught in a traffic

jam getting out.

But Perret, who won his first derby after three attempts, eased him back a bit and moved to the inside to bide his time.

Perret then threaded his horse through traffic for the rest of the race, brilliantly avoiding being boxed out.

Speedsters Fighting Fantasy and Real Cash took the lead as the 15-horse field pounded by the grandstands for the first time.

Unbridled was running side by side with Pleasant Trap around the first turn about mid-way back in the field.

Perret weaved his horse in and out and positioned himself directly behind eventual fifth-place finisher Silver Ending heading into the back stretch. Perret then took Unbridled inside to pass Silver Ending and then moved outside again.

When Perret came out of the turn, he spotted Pat Day on Summer Squall ahead

of him and stayed on the outside and breezed by the favourite.

As they charged down the stretch, Perret did not look to the inside, apparently knowing he had Summer Squall beaten, and looked to his right instead for any challengers.

There were none and Unbridled, under the urging of Perret, charged across the finish line at two minutes and two seconds on a track rated good.

It was the first derby victory for Unbridled's 92-year-old owner Frances Genter, who was in a box at Churchill Downs but could not see the race over the other spectators because she was in a wheelchair.

Carl Naefzer, a former rodeo bulldriver and now Unbridled's trainer, also won his first derby and called the race for his owner, who has been involved in racing for 50 years.

"He's got the lead, he's got the lead," he shouted. "He's going to win, he's going to win. Mrs Genter you just won the Kentucky Derby."

"Ohhhh," she said and covered her face with her hands.

Unbridled was named for another horse owned by Mrs Genter in 1949 who had been groomed for the Derby but had not made it.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Beardsley fit

LONDON, May 6. Reuter: Liverpool striker Peter Beardsley, who has sidelined for a month with a knee injury, said today he was fit again and available for England's next World Cup warm-up game against Denmark on May 15.

Stanley Cup

NEW YORK, May 6. Reuter: Results of the National Hockey League Stanley Cup semifinal playoff game yesterday: Wales Conference finals Boston Bruins 3 Washington Capitals 0 Bruins lead best-of-seven series 2-0.

Dutch soccer

AMSTERDAM, May 6. Reuter: Results of Dutch First Division soccer matches played today:

NEC Nijmegen	1	Ajax Amsterdam	1
Haarlem	0	PSV Eindhoven	2
Feyenoord	5	RKC Waalwijk	0
FC Groningen	5	MVV Maastricht	2
BVV Den Bosch	4	FC Twente	2
Rotterdam	3	FC Den Haag	1
FC Utrecht	1	Vitesse	2
Fortuna	4	Volendam	1
Willem II	1	Sparta	1

Jones wins

SINGAPORE, May 6. (UPI): American Kelly Jones relied on his powerful forehand today to whip Austrian Richard Fromberg 6-4, 2-6, 7-6, (7-4) and capture his second \$250,000 Epsom Singapore Tennis Championship.

India beaten

SEOUL, South Korea, May 6. (AP): South Korea won a doubles match today to take an unbeatable 3-1 lead over India in the Asia-Oceania Davis Cup zone tennis competition. South Korea's Yoo Jin-Sun and Bae Nam-Ju beat India's Zeehan Ali and Leander Pae 2-6, 6-1, 3-6, 9-7 on a clay court in Municipal Stadium in Seoul.

Fans fight

BRUSSELS, May 6. Reuter: About 500 soccer fans, hurling paving stones, billiard balls and crosses stolen from a cemetery, fought pitched battles with police in the historic Belgian city of Bruges, the Belgian news agency said today. Seven police officers were slightly injured before they were forced to retreat from the square in the centre of Bruges, where the soccer fans set a police car on fire and seriously damaged four others. No arrests were made.

Women's volleyball

PUERTO DE SANTA MARIA, Spain, May 6. Reuter: Results on the second day of the Women's World Volleyball Championship qualifying tournament yesterday:

Group A	Spain	Yugoslavia	3
France	0	Algeria	0
Venezuela	0	West Germany	3
Group B	Mauritius	0	US
Australia	0	Romania	3
Netherlands	3	Poland	0



Graf smiles as she holds her trophy. (Reuter wirephoto)

Graf outplays Sanchez

Gomez wins Madrid GP



Runners start the Paris marathon. (Reuter wirephoto)

Brace retains title

PARIS, May 6. (AP): Britain's Steve Brace won his second consecutive Paris marathon in warm, sunny weather today, beating Jean-Baptiste Protat of France by 31 seconds.

Brace's winning time was 2 hours, 13 minutes and 10 seconds, well off the course record of 2:10:49 held by France's Jacky Boberger.

About 12,000 people, one on stilts and another in a priest's vestment, entered the 42.2 kilometre (26.2 mile) race, held for the 15th time. Temperatures during the race climbed above 27 degrees Centigrade (into the low 80s Fahrenheit).

Brace pulled comfortably ahead of Protat with about four kilometres to go. Portugal's Manuel Mattias, winner in 1988, finished third in 2:14:27. Japan's Toshihiro Shibutani was fourth in 2:14:44 and Brazil's Osmiro da Silva was fifth in 2:14:46.



Brace raises his arms in victory. (Reuter wirephoto)

Devoy beats Le Moignan for crown

HONG KONG, May 6. (Reuter): World number one Susan Devoy of New Zealand underlined her current supremacy on the international circuit with a straight-games victory over England's Martine Le Moignan in the final of the Hong Kong Open squash tournament on Sunday.

World champion Le Moignan had no answer to the top seed's impressive backhand drop shots and the speed around the court which helped Devoy to 9-7 9-4 9-6 win.

Devoy, winner of the British Open last month, had the tougher route to the final but looked far fresher than Le Moignan and tested the fourth seed's stamina by ending their rally.

"Without a doubt this has been the hardest tournament I have ever had to play," said Devoy after picking up her \$3,000 winner's cheque.

"I am just pleased to have won it. There was a lot of mental, as well as physical, pressure on me."

Guernsey-born Le Moignan, who beat Devoy to take the world title last year, said: "It is no disgrace to lose to her — she is just like a machine."

Sabatini to face attack

ROME, May 6. (Reuter): Gabriela Sabatini will come under attack from the old guard and the new when she defends her title in the women's Italian Open Tennis Championships which start tomorrow.

With world number one Steffi Graf again bypassing the Rome event, Argentine Sabatini, winner of the last two Italian Open titles, finds herself sandwiched between the challenge of veteran Martina Navratilova and a crowd of upstart teenagers.

Navratilova, beaten by Sabatini in the semifinals in her last appearance at the tournament three years ago, has yet to win the Italian title.

The 33-year-old Czechoslovak-born American will be looking to improve on two defeats in the Rome final by the now-retired Chris Evert in mid-1970s.

West German Graf dislikes the lively atmosphere at Rome's Foro Italico and has not made an appearance since winning the title in 1987.

But there are plenty of young players looking forward to trying their luck on the Rome clay.

Spain's Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, who put Sabatini through a tough final last year and went on

to beat Graf in the final of the French Open — also on clay — the following month, is back.

Yugoslav Monica Seles, 16, is in good form and fast-rising 14-year-old Jennifer Capriati, the American daughter of an Italian, is likely to have the boisterous Roman crowds on her side.

Sabatini, 19, has made a good start to the season and needs a convincing run-in to the French Open and Wimbledon.

Her Spanish coach Angel Jimenez is worried about the determination she needs to go with her talent. "With her mental attitude it's impossible to progress," he said after a recent defeat.

The entry for the men's tournament, starting on May 14, is weaker with the world's top four — Ivan Lendl, Boris Becker, Stefan Edberg and last year's losing finalist Andre Agassi — all absent.

But with John McEnroe and French Open champion Michael Chang among a big American entry chasing the title held by Sabatini's compatriot Alberto Mancini, there is every chance last year's record of 188,650 spectators for the fortnight will be broken.

Sainz takes rally lead

AJACCIO, Corsica, May 6. (AP): Spain's Carlos Sainz drove his Toyota Celica to the lead today in the first day of the Tour of Corsica Auto Rally.

Sainz completed the 158-kilometre (98-mile) stage around Ajaccio in 46 minutes, 28 seconds, establishing a lead of 9 seconds over Didier Auriol of France, driving a Lancia Delta.

Another French driver, Francois Chatriot, was third in a BMW 20 seconds behind Sainz.

Auriol leads in the world championships standing with 35 points after three events. Auriol also won the Monte Carlo Rally in January.

The Tour of Corsica continues through Wednesday with a total distance of 1,397 kilometres (868 miles), with 30 timed special sections.

Leading standings in the Tour of Corsica Rally after today's 158-km first stage, which included four special timed sections:

1. Carlos Sainz (Spain) Toyota Celica, 46 minutes 28 seconds.
2. Didier Auriol (France) Lancia Delta Integrale, three seconds behind.
3. Francois Chatriot (France) BMW M3, 20
4. Armin Schwartz (West Germany) Toyota Celica, 21.
5. Yves Loubet (France) Lancia Delta Integrale, 24.
6. Bruno Saby (France) Lancia Delta Integrale, 55.
7. Marc Duez (Belgium) Ford Sierra Cosworth, 2.25.
8. Francois Delecour (France) Peugeot 309 GTI, 2.27.
9. Raimund Baumschlager (Austria) VW Golf GTI, 3.55.
10. Laurent Poggi (France) Citroen AX Sport, 4.06

• Pat Bradley showed a knack

Gardner triumphs

JEREZ, Spain, May 6. (Reuter): Australia's Wayne Gardner launched a furious attack on Wayne Rainey of the US to win the 500cc Spanish Motorcycling Grand Prix today.

Gardner seized the lead from Rainey on the 19th lap of the 29-lap race and forged ahead to win by seven seconds and move into second place behind the American in the World Championship standings.

Rainey piloted his Yamaha into an early lead in the 122.322 km race, with 1987 world champion Gardner and American Kevin Schwantz in pursuit.

Gardner, chasing hard on his Honda, narrowed the advantage and cut inside Rainey on a sharp curve to take the lead. The Australian stretched away, with Rainey apparently unwilling to take risks.

Gardner clinched his 16th Grand Prix victory in 52 minutes 58.02 seconds at an average speed of 138.564 kph, with Rainey second and Schwantz third on his Suzuki. Australian Michael Doohan, who started in pole position, was fourth.

"It's a nice feeling to be back," said Gardner, whose confidence had taken a blow after spills at last month's US Grand Prix in Laguna Seca and practice in Jerez.

"It looked at times as if things weren't going to work." Rainey, still 20 points clear in the World Championship standings, was unruffled by defeat.



Winston driver

Ahmed Al Zalari (right) takes a rest after his new Winston Toyota Corolla suffered a broken half-shaft at the end of the 5th stage of the Kuwait National Rally on Friday. Tareq Al Alyan won the rally.

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